



DELIGHT AT CANAL PROJECT SUPPORT

Report by Jonny Drury

DETERMINED volunteers have vowed to “re-double their efforts” to fully restore the Montgomery Canal after a crucial planning document backed the £30 million project.

Powys County Councillors last week adopted their latest local development plan which formally recognises the canal as one of the region’s key tourism features.

Oswestry man Michael Limbrey, chairman of the Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust, said: “This is fantastic news as the plan recognises that the historic Montgomery Canal is one of the county’s most significant tourism assets.

“With the support of the council behind us it will make it easier to press ahead with further work to link the Shropshire section into Wales and Welshpool and then work on the two miles near Newtown.

“This is a huge boost to re-open this canal which is known all around the country by enthusiasts.

“The target is for it to be re-opened to Welshpool within 10 years and all the way to Newtown by 2029 and that is dependent on money.

“However this backing of the local development plan will help that to be delivered sooner rather than later.

“With this support from Powys County Council we can redouble our efforts to reopen the canal.

“With lottery support there are already active projects to extend the navigable length of the canal in Shropshire, to improve the towpath in Wales, and to repair structures and improve the condition of unnavigable lengths of the canal.

“The new plan recognises the economic benefits of the canal with its connection to the national canal network.”

Work has been going on for years to fully restore the canal, which once ran from Frankton near Oswestry all the way to Newtown.

The canal was originally closed in 1936 due to a burst bank and since the 1960s groups and volunteers have spent time restoring locks, bridges and weirs.

The restoration of a section of the canal to Crickheath near Oswestry is nearing completion. An 11-mile stretch from the border to Welshpool is the next part of the project that needs completing, to join Mid Wales to the national network.

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Fundraising is sometimes just a piece of cake!



Hope House Children's Hospice fundraisers Rachael Lewis and Lynsey Kilvert have a go at icing cakes at the tea party. Photo: Alan Fogarasy.

SCHOOLS, businesses and organisations have been raising money by eating cake – all in aid of Hope House Children's Hospice.

The hospice at Morda near Oswestry asked its supporters to hold fundraising events by getting together for coffee mornings, afternoon tea and other events which involve cakes.

Staff at the hospice organised a special tea party for children and the nurses.

There was a special visit by the Hope House Choir during the event.

Members had learned the Makaton sign language version of the song If I Knew You Were Coming I'd Have Baked a Cake to sing at the event.

Children also enjoyed taking part in competitions and getting involved in the art of cake-icing.

Vanessa Lloyd from the hospice said many of the charity's supporters had held cake events to boost the fundraising.

She said the hospice offered a range of services including respite and end-of-life care at

both its hospices and within the family home and support such as counselling and advocacy. Bereavement support is offered to all children, young people and family members for as long as is needed.

She added: “Public help is vital so that we can provide the care and support that our children, young people and families so desperately need.

“We must raise over £6.3 million every year to maintain our services and receive just one month's funding from statutory bodies.”

TOURISM

Section of replica war trenches is damaged by fire

A SECTION of Oswestry's replica First World War trenches has been destroyed by suspected arsonists.

Staff at Park Hall Countryside Experience came into work on Monday to find the underground rooms in the trench system had been set on fire.

It happened sometime between 4.15pm on Sunday and 8am on Monday.

Managing director Richard Powell said: “We came in and found the underground rooms have been completely destroyed. We got to it at 8am and the fire was still smouldering.

“We've had the fire service out and they think someone has thrown something in there. It's a bit disappointing.”

The scheme, which was led by Mark Hignett from Oswestry Museum, was unveiled in 2014 and has seen thousands of visitors experience what life would have been like on the frontline.

Mr Powell said early estimations show it could cost more than £4,000 to replace the equipment and fix the damage.

He said: “We recently had a new sound effects system installed down there so when people walked in, it would trigger the sensors and play First World War noises. And we had new lamps which really added to the atmosphere.”

HEALTH

Births suspended at midwife-led units

BIRTHING services at Oswestry and Ludlow midwife-led units (MLU) have been suspended once again.

Inpatient services at Oswestry MLU will be temporarily suspended until May 6 and suspended at Ludlow MLU until May 20.

The units will remain open between 8am and 8pm for antenatal and postnatal services. Bosses say the closures, the latest affecting maternity services in the county, are to ensure the safe care of women using the services.

INSIDE

Let me run this question by you!



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Eventbrite makes refund vow over cancelled festival

Report by Sue Austin

MUSIC fans who bought tickets for a cancelled music festival through an events company will get their money refunded.

The international, Eventbrite company has pledged to refund customers within the next 10 days.

Disgruntled festival goers had feared they would not get their ticket money back after paying to attend the event.

Due to slow ticket sales and a lack of sponsorship, organisers of the Fieldbreeze Music Festival which was set to take place at Park Hall, Oswestry on May 5, had to pull the plug on the event earlier this month.

The news came shortly after the festival chief executive, Shawn Melusi said over half the amount of tickets he wanted to sell had been sold, with the target for the festival 10,000.

Headliners had expected to be Scouting for Girls, Dappy, DJ Danny Howard and Fuse ODG.

Tickets cost £25. Following the cancellation, Mr Melusi said organisers were taking legal advice on the next move.

This week Sebastian Boppert, from Eventbrite said those who bought tickets through the site would be refunded.

"We ticket millions of events each year and while they don't get cancelled often, we always strive to ensure all parties are treated fairly when something doesn't go as planned. Typically, organisers manage all aspects of their event, including refunds," he said.

"However, in an effort to resolve this particular issue as quickly as possible, we have issued full refunds to all attendees who purchased their tickets through our site. There is no action necessary from their end and they can expect to see the refund on their credit/debit card statement within the next five to seven business days."

It is not known what will be the the situation for those who didn't buy their tickets from Eventbrite.

Mr Melusi said he was still going through legal matters.

Group wants public to have say on EU deal



Steve Boyd, Jayne Middleton and Tony Meadows from the Oswestry and North Shropshire branch of the European Movement campaign

IT has engaged the nation for almost two years now and nearly everyone has an opinion on it.

Voters had their say on whether Britain should stay in or leave the EU back in June 2016. Now in Oswestry and North Shropshire a branch of the national group, European Movement, has been set up, in a bid for people to have one final say on the future of the country.

Founding member Steve Boyd, who runs a business from his home in Llanrhaeadr,

says he has felt the effects of Brexit already, with a fall in the pound meaning it is more expensive for him to buy products in from countries such as Germany, Poland and China.

He said the purpose of the group isn't to push for another referendum, but for people to have their say on the final deal that is put in place.

He said: "It is emerging just how complicated Brexit is in terms of the plans that are being put in place."

"Two years ago we voted to leave the EU and lots of things were promised by politicians, and now those promises look to be false and we are seeing a different picture."

"This isn't a call for a repeat referendum, it is asking an entirely different question. In the coming months groups across the country will be lobbying MPs about this, and our group will be out and about in Oswestry and North Shropshire."

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Suspended sentence for cadet sergeant

A CADET sergeant brought the army into disrepute by inappropriately kissing and touching a teenager, a judge said.

William Christopher Farrell was handed a three-month suspended prison sentence for two offences of sexual assault at Nesscliffe Training Camp, near Oswestry, in May, 2016.

At Shrewsbury Crown Court, Judge Peter Barrie said Farrell's actions could potentially put teenagers off joining the cadets in the future.

The 61-year-old, of Church Green, Cockshutt, near Ellesmere, was found guilty of two charges following a four-day trial last month.

Brendan Reedy, mitigating, said: "He appears to appreciate what he's done and understands that his behaviour was unacceptable."

Farrell kissed the victim on the cheek shortly after she arrived at the training camp for a weekend residential course.

The following day he touched her lower back and bottom during a training exercise.

The sentence was suspended for 12 months and Farrell was ordered to pay £200 compensation to the victim, told to complete 30 hours rehabilitation, 100 hours of unpaid work and was made the subject of a sexual harm prevention order.

His behaviour came to light when another cadet reported her concerns.

Coroner opens inquest hearing

AN inquest has opened into a woman who was found dead at her home.

Denise Patricia Spicer, of Gobowen, died on February 10.

The 55-year-old was found unconscious by a friend in her bedroom.

The emergency services were called to the property at 8.48pm.

The hearing was adjourned until July 11.

Commissioner 'has no plans to close stations'

Report by Sue Austin

NO plans are in place to close the police or fire stations in Oswestry, according to the area's crime commissioner.

West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion addressed Oswestry's annual town meeting last week to offer assurances over the services.

Last month Mr Campion was given the seal of approval by Home Secretary Amber Rudd to complete his controversial take-over of fire services in the region.

In the coming months the commissioner will also be responsible for Shropshire Fire and Rescue Services, as well as Hereford and Worcester, replacing their respective fire authorities.

At the meeting he admitted he would be looking at ways of cost-saving through estates and properties to ensure the protection of front line services.

However, Mr Campion said that the location of the police and the fire stations in Oswestry were such that he was not looking at the closure of either at the current time.

He was responding to a question by Councillor Paul Milner.

The councillor told the meeting he was concerned about the ramifications of a strategic alliance.

He said: "Oswestry lost its ambulance station and I am worried that we could lose one of our other services."

The councillor added: "I am also concerned that call centre staff should have local knowledge."

Mr Campion, who addressed the meeting alongside local inspector Tracey Ryan, said the days of having front counter staff at stations such as Oswestry were over, but officers were often in the building.

He said the public were encouraged to ring police rather than visit the station and insisted that unlike other force areas, he had retained front line staff in the region.

He added: "I have also protected the Safer Neighbourhood Teams."

● Share - See Page 6

TV focus on story of glamping firm



Katrina and Steve Boydon from Barnutopia Glamping near Oswestry who are starring on a new ITV show

A GLAMPING company's drive to become a wedding and event venue has been captured in a new television series.

Barnutopia will be featured in an episode of Give it a Year, fronted by business guru, Baroness Karren Brady.

Cameras have been following Katrina and Steve Boydon's journey from applying for a licence for weddings to converting a long barn into a venue for special occasions.

The episode will be aired on May 14.

The site, in spectacular countryside at Llansilin near Oswestry, was

taken over by the couple in 2015, starting with three luxury yurts.

That quickly grew to a selection of yurts and converted stables and bunkhouses as well as a campsite.

Such was the success that Katrina and Steve decided to expand to provide a venue for weddings and other events. Their decision has been charted by the ITV programme, Give it a Year, which has followed a series of British businesses in their first year. The Two Four production company came down in 2016 and did some filming and then returned at regular intervals to see the progression of the business. Baroness Brady

also visited two or three times. "She was very nice, down to earth but very sharp. I hope she was impressed by what she saw," Katrina said. "Filming ended with the first wedding ceremony at Barnutopia when Louise Ashman tied the knot with Ritchie Cummons."

"It was a fabulous day and went very well despite a hiccup when the hog roast that the bride had booked didn't turn up and we raced off to buy enough barbecue food to feed 65 guests." The venue can cater for up to 120 wedding or function guests and can sleep about 40 as well as the campsite.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Invitation to join singing group

GUILDFIELD Singers are having an open night on Thursday next week aimed at attracting new members.

Margaret Clennett from the group said: "Whether you are a novice singer, just wondering about joining a choir, or are an experienced choral singer, come and join us at one of our Thursday evening rehearsals in the Old School, Guilfield."

"The date of the open night is Thursday, May 3, at 7.30pm and we will be rehearsing music for our annual summer supper concert. It would be helpful to know in advance if you intend to come, so just let our secretary Jen know on (01938) 552597."

Guild members to meet at hall

MEMBERS of Oswestry and District Townswomen Guild have their monthly meeting this afternoon (Thursday) in the Festival Suite, Memorial Hall, Oswestry, from 2pm to 4pm.

The speaker this month is the Rev Lynne Morris.

Val Laundry from the group said: "She may be a Rev but the stories she can tell will open your eyes and make you laugh. Come along ladies and make new friends."

College to screen big royal occasion

A COLLEGE'S popular training restaurant will be helping to celebrate the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle by screening the event.

The Orangery Restaurant at Derwen College, Gobowen, has organised a special wedding event from 11am on May 19.

Tickets cost £10 and to join the party book your ticket at bookings@derwen.ac.uk or call (01691) 661234.

Talk on Auschwitz

THE organisers of Welshpool 1940s Weekend are hosting an illustrated talk "Auschwitz Then and Now" at the Corn Exchange, Welshpool on Tuesday at 7.30pm.



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The travellers at the site

Travellers move off leisure centre site

TRAVELLERS who set up a makeshift camp at a leisure centre have now left the site.

Two caravans pitched up at Oswestry Leisure Centre, along with a van, a tent and a washing line.

They took over a section of the car

park at the busy centre on Shrewsbury Road on the edge of the town on Wednesday last week.

Security staff were brought in by Serco, the managers of the centre, to ensure there were no problems caused.

The security staff remained on

site until the travellers left on Friday.

Some leisure centre users took to Facebook to complain about anti-social behaviour and minor damage to cars. Leisure services manager for Shropshire Council Peter Davis said that the travellers were issued

with an order to leave by the courts. "The travellers left on Friday, after being issued with a notice to leave on Thursday," Mr Davis said.

It is believed that the travellers put all their refuse in bags which they left in a pile for the council to dispose of.

Police action 'squeezing out drug dealers in town'

Report by Sue Austin

DRUG dealers are being squeezed out of Oswestry as police and other agencies stop them "cuckooing" the homes of vulnerable users.

The practice, which sees dealers peddling their drugs from a property like a cuckoo in a nest, has all but been stamped out in Oswestry, the town's police inspector has revealed.

They have been driven out of nine out of 10 houses in the town in an operation that has involved plain clothed and CID officers, housing agencies and social services.

Concerns over property aired

A SCRUTINY committee believes a local authority needs to manage its property portfolio better ahead of a review of office accommodation.

Last month Powys County Council agreed that it would carry out a review into its offices in the north of the county.

The review would cover Neuadd Maldwyn in Welshpool which will either be sold or rented out, with staff moved to other offices in the region.

A scrutiny working group for the council has met with the portfolio holder and agreed with the preferred option to review the offices.

However the group has raised issues with the council's approach to property management, and believes it could be improved by having the authority's properties managed corporately.

Inspector Tracy Ryan said Oswestry had been made unattractive to drug dealers.

She told the annual town meeting that drugs had been a pervasive element in Oswestry with dealers coming into the town from big cities and preying on the inherent vulnerability of drug users.

"Those dealers come into our towns and villages cuckooing in the homes of their vulnerable clients," she said.

"In the past we have taken a short term approach with drug raids, simply moving them onto different addresses.

"Recently we identified 10 addresses and worked with other agencies giving support and advice to dissuade the drug users from allowing the dealers to use their homes for selling drugs.

"We have been successful in nine of their cases and have now stopped the dealers keeping their foothold in the town.

"Not only do we now have nine people who are no longer at risk but we have gathered vital intelligence.

"We have made Oswestry unattractive to drug dealers."

Cavern Club set to pop up



Resident musicians from The Cavern Club will entertain at this year's Llanfest

ONE of the world's most famous music clubs will host its first ever pop up stage at Llanfest this year.

The iconic music venue The Cavern Club, best known for hosting The Beatles' gigs, will be joining the Kaiser Chiefs and other bands at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod near Oswestry on July 8.

The date also marks the 50th anniversary of the Beatles' animated film Yellow Submarine. The collaboration will see The Cavern Club entertaining audiences with performances from its resident musicians.

The club has been the beating heart of Liverpool's music scene for more than seven decades and will celebrate The Beatles' pop history, hosting an array of music performances by singers from Liverpool.

Director at The Cavern Club Bill Heckle said he was thrilled to be part of the festival. He said: "We're thrilled to be working with the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, both by hosting The Cavern's pop-up stage at this year's festival and commemorating the Yellow Submarine's 50th anniversary."

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Objection raised against plans to move park gun

Report by Aimee Jones

PLANS to move a memorial gun to make way for a statue of war poet Wilfred Owen have been criticised by a group of ex-soldiers.

Oswestry Town Council was due to hold a special meeting last night (Wednesday) to discuss the position of a new statue of the town's famous son.

It had been suggested to move the 25-pounder gun in Cae Glas Park to make way for the statue. However, it has been met with opposition from the Wrexham branch of the

Refugees share love of the game

IT is known as the beautiful game and has brought a sense of belonging to millions of people around the world.

And on Friday night a group of Syrian refugees were able to share their love of football with members of The New Saints in Oswestry as they watched the team take on rivals Connah's Quay Nomads.

As part of an Amnesty International UK's 'Football Welcomes' weekend, the club, based at The Venue, welcomed the families to their Park Hall ground for their Welsh Premier League clash.

Six adults and three children went along to the club and before the match they were treated to a meal and a tour of the ground.

Five refugee families were rehoused in Oswestry almost two years ago.

Jools Payne, refugee advocate for Syrian families in Oswestry, explained that the families had endured indescribable cruelty and terror in Syria and had made their new lives in Oswestry where they now felt safe and secure.

She said: "When I told the men that the club had issued this invitation as part of the Football Welcomes weekend, they were very excited. A few of them are huge fans of the game and were really looking forward to the match."

Royal Artillery Association which leases out the gun.

In a letter to the town council, Jim Wadkin said: "We object to a statue of any person, regardless of their military or civilian status, being positioned in any memorial garden or garden of remembrance.

"A statue of Wilfred Owen should not be given precedence over any other heroic serviceman, some possibly of equal or more senior rank from the Oswestry and district area, who also gave their lives for king and country." The gun was set up in 1988 as a memorial to all the gunners who passed through Park Hall camp. The location of the Owen statue was considered by the Cae Glas Park management group at a meeting on March 29. The recommendation to the council is to move the 25-pounder gun to the edge of the border and have it alongside the Owen statue. A report which was due to go before council also suggests more money will need to be set aside to complete the works. It said: "The whole border will therefore need to be re-designed to allow for both features to be positioned either side of the border and for the creation of a central floral display.

"Until the final details are agreed by members it is difficult to provide precise costings for the work however, it would be prudent for the council to budget a figure of approximately £20,000."

Mr Wadkin also said there are soldiers from Oswestry who were awarded the Victoria Cross for their bravery who do not receive the recognition they deserve.

"Wilfred Owen is generously represented in Oswestry with a school, bar and road dedicated to him," he said. "Brigadier General John Vaughan Campbell VC and Squadron Sergeant Major Harold Edward Whitfield VC, have only a residential close named in their honour."

Women's purse stolen in store



The man and woman police want to talk to about the purse theft

POLICE have released CCTV footage after a woman's purse was stolen from her handbag as she was shopping in an Oswestry supermarket.

It comes six months after an 87-year-old woman had her purse stolen in the same supermarket.

In the latest incident a woman's purse was stolen from her handbag on March 29, at around 1.45pm, in the Aldi supermarket on Beatrice Street.

West Mercia Police have released CCTV footage from inside the store and are keen to speak to the man and woman in the footage as it is thought they were in the area at the time and may have information that

can help police with their inquiries. The man and woman, or anyone who recognises them, are asked to contact West Mercia Police on 101 quoting reference 330S 290318.

Alternatively, contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or at crimestoppers-uk.org

The incident comes after a woman's purse was stolen in the supermarket in October.

One man pleaded guilty and was ordered to pay compensation and complete 200 hours of unpaid work.

It prompted a fundraising appeal which saw people donate almost £5,000 to the victim.

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

Is the promised wind of change finally set to blow through Powys County Council corridors of power, matching the pledges of many of the new councillors elected last May?

Nothing happens very quickly in local politics and Powys is certainly no exception as many of the frustrated new councillors have been finding out – but in the past week things have finally been starting to happen. The council's long-awaited Local Development Plan was finally approved, closing the loopholes that have seen record levels of planning applications during the past year. And an ambitious Corporate Improvement Plan was given the green light, setting out the council's main priorities. Those priorities include the economy, health and care, learning and skills along with residents and communities. But are they just words and the same old promises we have heard for years? Well according to the newly thinned down cabinet – down from 10 members to eight – the plans simply have to work if the authority is to survive and that means a massive transformation needs to take place.

And to ensure that happens the council may just have brought in the very man for the job in Dr Mohammed Mehmet as acting chief executive while Jeremy Patterson remains on long term sick leave. I've been doing a little homework into the new man and find that Mohammed has just completed a 10-year stint at Denbighshire County Council where he transformed a failing council into the best performing county authority in Wales and prior to that he was a member of the Public Service Leadership Panel and Merthyr Tydfil's Education Recovery Board. Everything points to Powys having recruited a man of some substance in a determined effort to put things right but he will need to be right at the top of his game to keep the hovering Welsh Government vultures at bay. After all Powys is deep in trouble over its ability to handle child care services and the county's adult care provision is currently under scrutiny from Welsh Government inspectors. There is also the small matter of a £17million savings package needed on next year's budget. And then there's the problem of Powys roads being the worst in Wales, schools failing to achieve their budgets and many of the council senior roles being filled by acting or interim managers. I'm looking forward to meeting Dr Mohammed Mehmet and hearing just how he intends to tackle all these issues.



The fire authority's Eric Carter has criticised the move



The hope is the public will not even notice the change



PCC John Campion adds fire to his police duties

'It's good to share' says new police and fire boss

West Mercia police and crime commissioner JOHN CAMPION outlines why the emergency services must become more efficient

IN January 2016 the Government passed legislation that enabled Police and Crime Commissioners to give local fire and rescue services clear public accountability.

This legislation was made to bring about closer working between the police, fire and rescue and NHS ambulance services – ultimately improving the way they serve communities like Shropshire, protect the public and provide value for money for taxpayers.

When I announced in June last year that I was launching a three month consultation seeking people's views on my proposals to bring together the governance for fire and police for West Mercia, I anticipated that there would be mixed views.

Vital

But these were the views I wanted to hear to make sure we safeguarded these vital services for generations to come.

After submitting my business case to the Home Office, it was announced that I, along with the Staffordshire and Cambridgeshire PCCs, will join Essex in becoming some of the first Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners.

People naturally have concerns about potential uncertainty around what all



Shropshire firefighters are going to have to share resources with the police

this could mean and what these changes will bring.

Certainly isn't about local councillors or me as commissioner – my drive in having the difficult discussions about changes to fire governance has solely been about making sure we're delivering the best long term results for the communities, and right services to keep our communities safe.

Yes, collaboration between the two services currently exists, but it doesn't go far enough to maximise the possible benefits to our communities.

In towns across West Mercia we have police and fire stations alongside each other, when they could just be sharing a building.

For example, by doing this it not only removes unnecessary resources but al-

lows police and fire to share data about incidents, as well as share expertise.

I want to make sure as much as your money as possible is spent on frontline fire and police activities.

Most importantly, the key detail here is you the public and the service you receive.

Reassurance

I want to provide reassurance that it won't be affected and you will continue to receive the fire service you expect.

It's likely that you won't even notice anything has changed.

I have been told personally, by those I spoke to during the consultation, that they aren't necessarily concerned who helps in times of emergency, as long as they know that someone will be there

if they call for help. This is why I will never compromise the safety of the public. It was not only a must of mine, but a must of the business case that if savings could be made then it can never be at the expense of the public's safety.

Moving forward, changes won't start to happen until June and even then it won't be something that will happen overnight.

Once the governance has officially been moved over to my office I will then spend a great amount of time working with the two chief fire officers.

This planning stage is the most crucial, as it involves seeking guidance from the two fire and rescue services to ensure we are maximising the benefits of both of them.

We'll discuss how we can build on existing collaboration by working even closer, identifying where we can share assets and support, but respecting and retaining the professional skills and knowledge within each geographic area, and taking time to get this right.

Foundations

I also want to ensure that the firefighters are still getting all the support they need.

The implementation stage will follow this, but only after we get the planning stage right.

Our existing fire authorities have laid good foundations to build from, for which we are all grateful.

I will now aim to deliver the improvements I've outlined throughout this process and work tirelessly to make sure 'potential' benefits on paper become realities.

As commissioner I will always make sure that our emergency services are at the heart of our communities, keep us safe, whilst making sure that we're as efficient as we can be.

PETER RHODES

HERE'S something new. For the first time, the notification for my routine blood-pressure check begins: "It is recommended that all patients with a chronic disease are seen annually." Until now, as far as I can recall, hypertension has always been a condition, not a disease. Goodness knows what the change will do to my blood pressure.

PREDICTIVE text department. On the vexed issue of Babbage predictively texting as Cabbage, a reader writes: "I've just entered Babbage in and cabbage, bag-gage, bandage and Hannah's came up. I understand the first three, but why Hannah's? So I entered Hannah's. Batman came up!"

HISTORIC England, the government body responsible for protecting our heritage, posted an animated online movie of Nelson's Column being demolished with a wrecking ball. The image, since deleted, was apparently intended to inspire debate about 'controversial' statues and memorials. Instead, it generated outrage. From the public fury, you might assume that the column has always been regarded with great reverence. Think again. One hundred years ago it was almost destroyed by arson. In his excellent book about the Armistice, A Stillness Heard Around the World, Stanley Weintraub recalls how, as the peace celebrations reached London in November 1918, some 'wild' Australian and Canadian soldiers lit a huge bonfire at the base of the column. It blazed for hours, possibly days. When the fire brigade arrived, the soldiers grabbed the hoses and drenched the firemen. Nelson's Column bore the scars of this fire for many years afterwards.

I WAS moved by the readers who recently sent their condolences after I wrote about the death of an old friend, Harry. I'm just back from his funeral. He'd been a church bell ringer for 70 years and his bell rope was laid on his coffin. The service included Abide with Me, St Paul's letter concerning Faith, Hope and Love, followed by sandwiches, pies and ale at the village hall. The sun shone and the birds sang as his old mates peeled the bells for the passing of a gentleman. The perfect send-off.

AFTER the service, one of the guests tripped on the stairs in the beer garden while carrying a huge cream bun on a plate. He performed a half-roll on the lawn and sprang to his feet with the bun still on its plate, to some applause. The fact that he is a vicar in his 70s makes the story better.

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NEIGHBOUR'S TREES ARE BLOCKING LIGHT TO MY GARDEN. WHAT CAN I DO?

Q: My neighbours have allowed several trees to grow to such a height in their garden that I am worried a strong wind may blow them over and damage my property. I have tried to discuss the problem with my neighbours but they have refused to reduce the height of the trees. What can I do to resolve the issue?

A: By attempting to discuss the problem with your neighbour you have made the correct first step. The Trees and High Hedges Act 2005 provides the legislation to deal with such issues. It applies where the "reasonable enjoyment" of part of a property, including the garden, is being negatively affected by a tree or high hedge situated on neighbouring land.

The Act defines a high hedge or tree as being two or more trees or shrubs over two metres high above ground level and which act as a barrier to light. The Act expects you to discuss the problem with your neighbour in an attempt to resolve the issue, but if this fails you should write a more formal letter setting out your grievance and a time limit to resolve the issue before you take further steps.

The Department of Local Government & the Environment are unlikely to proceed with a complaint if a person has not taken all reasonable steps to resolve the matter with their neighbour. When deciding whether to proceed with a complaint the Department of Local Government & the Environment will take into account several different factors. A remedial notice may be served upon your neighbour and will lay out what steps need to be taken. Failure to comply with this notice may result in your neighbour being prosecuted and facing a fine of up to £5,000. Your solicitor can advise you about the merits of any claim you have.

Further information relating to this question is available from James Denton, a trainee solicitor with GHP Legal. For an appointment visit www.ghplegal.com or contact one of our offices: Oswestry 01691 659194, Chirk 01691 777949, Wrexham 01978 291456, Llangollen 01978 860313. We offer free legal diagnostic clinics (no appointment necessary). In Oswestry, Wednesdays 12noon-3pm for Personal Injury, Employment & Family matters. In Wrexham, Mondays 9.30am-12noon for Employment matters, 12noon – 3pm for Personal Injury & Family matters. GHP Legal is authorised and regulated by the SRA 51566, and Lexcel Accredited.



Letters

Town traders need much more support

HAVING been born in Shrewsbury and lived here for a considerable time, I cannot remember a period where so many shops and businesses are closed or up for sale.

Charity and pop-up shops seem more plentiful than ever. It would appear that policies undertaken by the council may well be responsible.

Rather than come up with a plan to prop up the town and encourage business and visitors the council is proposing increas-

ing parking charges by 50 per cent and extending the paying periods from 6.30pm to 8pm-plus. Where is the sense in this? Furthermore the introduction of ludicrous schemes such as improvements (I use the term loosely and when it ain't broke why fix it!) to the Meole Brace roundabout, gyratory system and Wyle Cop have resulted in traffic chaos and further loss of business.

Having had a massive increase in business rates I feel sorry for Shrewsbury trad-

ers and can understand why so many have decided to shut up shop and leave. Equally worrying is that the council have bought the shopping centres. If the previous management companies have been unable to make them pay there is no chance now.

Unless they get real and support the town then Shrewsbury will soon become a ghost town.

A D FRANCE
Shrewsbury

Busy trade being done at town's cattle market



This was the scene back in the 1960s at the Oswestry cattle market. This picture is from the Geoff Charles Collection held at the National Library of Wales.

Work and pray for return of Godly love in society

LIBERTY, freedom, that was the cry in the swinging 60s, do what feels good, why should anyone tell us what we can or can't do?

There was a famous court case involving the publication of a book called Lady Chatterley's Lover. The lady had a love affair with the gamekeeper which was considered too racy for publication. After a long case the High Court allowed it to be published.

From then on there was a rising tide of pornographic material which made Lady Chatterley look quite tame.

This was the beginning of the slide into the moral decline of our nation which accelerated rapidly with the advent of internet. It has led to the true value and beauty of pure true love to be corrupted and misunderstood.

The love between a man and a woman is beautiful and wonderful, it is still something many young people yearn for. We need to work and pray for a revival of genuine Godly love in every area of our society.

RON JONES
St Martins

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
The Chronicle,
14 Salop Road,
Oswestry, SY11 2NU

EMAIL

iajn.stjohn@
shropshirestar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Let firefighters carry on with work

YOU couldn't make it up. Proposals to make caring for the elderly in a lifting and carrying capacity for our firefighters are being resisted by the union.

They don't mind their members rescuing horses and cattle that get into trouble or even the odd bird that gets stuck up a tree, but going into someone's home requiring a little help is taboo. I trust the union members will tell their union leaders where to go and continue to help the community in any way that they are able.

ADRIAN WILLIAMS
Bratton

North of county does not have full health provision

I HAVE always believed in a fully-funded, publicly-owned NHS with services provided as close to local communities as possible.

Until the 1990s this was the situation in Shropshire. We had a hospital with full services in Shrewsbury serving the south of the county and another, smaller, hospital (Oswestry & District Hospital or ODH) serving the north of the county. Whilst people are discussing the situation between Shrewsbury and Telford, please remember that people in Oswestry and its environs have a long memory and do not forget or forgive. When it was decided to build the Princess Royal Hospital part of the way it was funded was for Birmingham Health Authority to close the ODH and four wards at the Orthopaedic Hospital.

The north of the county is now without adequate health provision.

If I need to go to RSH I can get there in 20 minutes on a good day and Telford I can make in 45 minutes.

DAVE ADAMS
Oswestry

Living in neo liberal world is no benefit to most of us

WE are now living in a neo liberal dictatorship, where what the vast majority of people vote for is overridden by financial elites with vested interests.

After the welfare state was formed and ever since, ordinary people want a free NHS, free education for their children, and a benefit system that will provide for them if they lost their job until they find another job. Unfortunately, the private sector has been slowly creeping into all these sectors, and not for the benefit of the users. The EU referendum showed what the majority of people want is an independent UK free of EU rules, and to be able to open up to the whole world, and not be kept in some failing state. It is not going to happen if Leave means Remain. People want more houses provided at lower cost for low income families, and low income families aren't just shop floor workers, but are increasingly made up of middle management workers. This is yet another sector of society that has been taken over by speculators and investors.

Banking and the City are no benefit to the real economy, as they just move money around for investors and don't create jobs and wealth for ordinary people; instead they just encourage loan shark companies to operate and multiply the wealth of the financiers, while they increase poverty for the majority of people, some trapped into high interest loans of over 1,000 per cent APR. Instead of moving forward as a nation, we are going back to the 19th century when it comes to income inequality.

New Labour under the neo liberal Tony Blair started it all off. House prices tripled, and don't be fooled by Labour today as there are still many Blairites in the opposition.

MARK NORWOOD
Whittington

Man creche to aid retailers

I HAVE an idea that may save British retailers – set up a husband creche.

It is well known that men have an aversion to shopping, inflicting headaches, boredom, hypertension etc.

So why not encourage spouses or partners into shops with their wives/girlfriends/partners?

An area set aside with comfortable chairs, coffee machines, an array of newspapers and magazines, wi-fi etc and perhaps throw in a playpen filled with Lego or is this going too far, upsetting the peaceful ambience required?

This idea was prompted by a sign spotted outside a local pub recently.

PETER HASSALL
Shifnal

Dundee, Angus & Glamis Castle

This compact city claims to be the sunniest in Scotland and the closest city to the spectacular countryside. It is home to many historical buildings, two famous ships as well as boutiques and museums, and its waterfront development is due to be finalised in 2018. Our tour includes a visit to the spectacular Glamis Castle plus excursions throughout Angus and Perthshire.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

War memorial grant invitation

COMMUNITIES in Powys are being urged to apply for grants to help preserve World War One memorials for future generations.

The Powys War Memorials Project can provide grants to repair, restore or maintain World War One memorials in the county.

The maximum grant available for repair works for one memorial is £5,000 while up to £200 is available to improve war memorial surroundings such as fencing, gates or lighting. The grants from the project can cover up to 90 per cent of the cost of the work.

Any type of World War One memorial in the county is eligible including stone obelisks, stained glass windows, plaques, statues or halls. World War One memorials with additions for other wars are also eligible.

Concerns over export proposals

A BAN on live animal exports would be "remarkably shortsighted" given the uncertainty around a post-Brexit trade deal and agricultural tariffs, the Farmers' Union of Wales has said.

The UK and Welsh Governments have launched a call for evidence on a UK-wide ban on the export of live animals for overseas slaughter – something not possible while the UK remains part of the EU, due to EU free trade rules.

FUW president Glyn Roberts said: "We will naturally be consulting with members over this issue, but our current position is that it would be remarkably short sighted to introduce a ban on live exports at the same time as massive tariffs on meat exports to the EU might be introduced."

Mr Roberts said such a ban could cut off an essential lifeline for sheep farmers.

Council spends more to boost children's services

Report by Jonny Drury

SPENDING to improve a council's troubled children's services has increased by almost £300,000 as the authority continues to struggle to make planned cuts.

The current financial position of Powys County Council indicates that the authority will be close to a balanced revenue budget in the 2017/18 financial year.

But a report that went before the council's cabinet stated that a combination of the response to the children's services inspection and ongoing financial pressure has meant limited improvement has been made in project savings.

The report was put together by finance portfolio holder and deputy leader Aled Davies, however he was absent at the meeting and 151 officer Jane Thomas delivered the report.

The document revealed that the council had made £7.811 million of spending cuts out of a target of £11.78 million. The figures mean the authority still has to cut another £4 million from its spending.

Ms Thomas said: "At the end of February, only 66 per cent of savings were achieved."

The predicted overspend in the council's troubled children's services department has increased by £279,000.

A report last year found that children in the county had been put at serious risk through failings in the service, and the authority has been working to rectify the problems ever since.

The increase in spending is down to costs related to an improvement plan.

Marathon ends with big question



The moment Gareth Bennett proposed to Katie Williams after the marathon

WHEN Gareth Bennett fell to his knees having completed the London Marathon, his girlfriend thought he had collapsed from heat exhaustion.

Instead Gareth, from Dolywern near Chirk, took an engagement ring from his pocket and asked a shocked Katie Williams to marry him.

The proposal took place in front of a dozen family and friends who had gone to London to support the runner who completed the marathon to raise funds for the Macmillan Cancer charity. "The others all know what Gareth was going to do but I didn't have an inkling," said Katie, who said yes straight away.

Gareth decided to propose after the marathon about three months ago. He said: "Katie's dad carried the champagne around all day and one of our friends was ready to video the proposal. Everyone knew except Katie. I had to put the ring in a little bag and then tie it inside my pocket. Knowing I had to finish to propose to Katie helped to get me round, it was so hot. I also thought, I have seen how strong people can be when fighting cancer and if they can do that then I can put myself through 26.2 miles."

'More work needed to reach care expectations'

MORE work needs to be done to boost an authority's children's services despite improvements being made since a damning report was issued last year.

The Care Inspectorate Wales warned in October that children under the care of Powys County Council were at risk of harm due to failures within the children's services.

Since then the council has been working hard to rectify the problems investing more money in the service to reduce case loads and hiring more staff.

The October report found that the council had missed opportunities to safeguard children.

The authority apologised for the failings and pledged to make changes.

However, it was met with a follow-up warning notice in January to build on early improvements.

Children's minister for Wales Huw Irranca-Davies said in a statement to the Welsh Assembly that a three-day monitoring visit by inspectors in March found "an increased confidence in the local authority, with tangible steps taken to improve services".

In his statement Mr Irranca-Davies also said a revised improvement plan had been submitted and an assurance board has been set up.

But despite improvements being made, the minister said he had decided to issue an addendum to the follow-up warning notice.

He said: "Whilst I am pleased that improvements are being made, I am determined to maintain close oversight of Powys Children's Services until we reach a time where Care Inspectorate Wales and Welsh ministers are satisfied the council is delivering services to the standard and quality expected."

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Camera is helping to tackle the young yobs

A MOBILE CCTV camera set up in a village near Oswestry has helped to deter youths who have been targeting elderly people and members of the public.

Complaints have been made over the last month regarding young people visiting Whittington and throwing stones and shouting through letter boxes. Ten youths were ordered away from Whittington Castle recently by police for unruly behaviour.

Whittington Parish Council has been working with West Mercia Police and pledged to fund a mobile CCTV camera in the village.

Jill Whitby, chairman of the council, hopes the problems are now coming to an end.

She said: "We were working with the police on this and put the funding forward for a camera to deter the youths from targeting people. At the moment there is one camera up so the police can keep an eye on anything happening, and they've told us that since last week no new incidents have been reported."

"Hopefully that will be the end of things, it isn't nice for people in the village. Whittington is a quiet little village that relies on tourism through the castle and we don't want anything to spoil that."

Police have previously said it hasn't been youngsters from the village causing the problems, but youngsters coming from Oswestry.

Councillor Whitby added: "We are told they have been coming from outside the village, and we can't understand why they would come here as there are things to do in Oswestry."

"Our investment seems to have been worthwhile and hopefully that will be the end of it."

New rules put vital bus services under threat

Report by Lucy Todman

VITAL bus services relied on by the elderly and vulnerable in Shropshire are being placed under threat.

New rules could force volunteer drivers for services such as Dial-a-Ride to gain a commercial licence, a process that would cost thousands of pounds.

That means services that currently provide a lifeline to thousands of people would have to be scaled back or could fold altogether.

The Department of Transport is carrying out a consultation to determine whether new licences should be brought in for drivers of community buses.

Under the changes, community bus drivers would have to undergo training, costing thousands of pounds, which would lead to them being awarded a commercial licence.

Michelle Kelsall from Qube Oswestry has 400 members who use the service on a regular basis. Although the service has two commercial drivers who already have licences, if new changes are brought in all 30 drivers would be required to have a commercial licence.

She said: "We are not a commercial outfit. We are here for the community. There are two sides to this. On one hand other commercial operators want to be on a level playing field with us while on the other community transport groups need to find ways of funding themselves."

"We get grants but they don't cover our running costs. We are in limbo, but we have to keep going as people rely on us. We have got to keep people moving."

Artist's RAF work marks 100 years



A ceremony was held to unveil the roebuck sculpture created by Alfie Bradley to mark the 100th anniversary of the Royal Air Force

A SCULPTURE created by a man from Shropshire to commemorate those who have served in the RAF has been unveiled.

The roebuck sculpture was designed and built by Alfie Bradley from Oswestry to mark the 100th anniversary of the Royal Air Force. It was unveiled at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire and a ceremony was attended by former servicemen and their families.

Mr Bradley, who is most well known for creating the Knife Angel that is currently at the British Ironworks Centre, was unable to attend the event but said he was honoured to have been asked to create the memorial. He said: "They approached me and asked me to produce the roebuck, which is made out of metal rods much like a bear I have created in the past."

"It took about three to four months to do, but unfortunately I wasn't able to be there at the unveiling recently. I have been told it went down really well, and people were really pleased with how it came out."

He was unable to attend the unveiling as he was at a show in Chelsea, where he showcased some of his work and built new contacts.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chance to show off your talents

PEOPLE who have got a talent and who live, work or are educated in Welshpool are being invited to showcase their skill at an event next month.

Welshpool Town Council is organising a talent show on May 11 in the town hall assembly rooms with the winner set to win £50 and an opportunity to perform at the annual carnival.

Contestants need to live, be educated or work in Welshpool, with £20 and £10 prizes for second and third places up for grabs.

For details or to enter call (01938) 553142.

On the same evening the carnival queen and her attendants will be crowned. The queen needs to be 12 or older and her attendants eight or over.

Watch wedding and raise money

SEVERN Hospice is holding an event to mark the royal wedding and raise money for the charity.

The Oswestry Friends of the Severn Hospice are holding the event on May 19 at the Black Gate in the town, to mark the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

Running from 11am to 2pm, people who attend will be able to watch the wedding, enjoy a drink to toast, canapés and wedding cake all for just £15.

Jo Foot, part of the organising committee for the hospice, said: "We are hoping to raise as much money as possible for the hospice through the royal wedding."

"We hope people will come out and support the event and celebrate the day."

Tickets are available from the Black Gate on (01691) 657484 or from Rowanhorn in Oswestry on (01691) 238227.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Discharge for assault man

A MAN has been given a conditional discharge by magistrates after he was found guilty of assault.

Daniel John Bunce, 33, of Leighton View, Welshpool, had denied assaulting Timothy Lobley at a previous hearing.

It is alleged that on October 25 in Welshpool he assaulted Mr Lobley by beating him.

Welshpool Magistrates Court found him guilty after a trial on Monday last week.

He was made subject to a 12-month conditional discharge.

He was also ordered to pay £450 costs and a £30 victim surcharge.

Eight-mile walk for ramble group

THE Welshpool Ramblers walk on Sunday will be a moderate circular walk of about eight miles led by Kath Pugh.

Starting from Newtown, and passing through the Ffrydd, Garth and Highgate Hill, it will be mostly on fields and tracks with a couple of steeper parts.

People should meet at 9am in the car park beside the Welshpool Tourist Information Centre (OS grid ref. SJ 226 075) from where transport may be available or at the start of the walk in the Back Lane Car Park in Newtown (OS grid ref. SO 106 916) ready for a 9.30am start.

For further information telephone (01686) 628936 or 07969 985088.

On Sunday, April 15, the Welshpool Ramblers' walk was from the top of Lyth Hill Country Park.

Market hall set for £13k revamp under new plans

Report by Jonny Drury

WELSHPOOL Town Council is set to invest £13,000 in doing up its market hall, just months after traders protested against a plan to move it.

Welshpool Town Council was due to meet last night (Wednesday) to discuss a proposal to spend the money on re-decorating the hall and providing new facilities for the building.

It comes just months after traders started a petition to stop the authority moving the market into huts on the Church Street car park.

Mayor Steve Kaye said the huts on the car park plan was just one of the options available and the council had instead decided the best way forward was to invest in the market.

He said: "In the long run it will save us money by doing the improvements. It is the best thing to do and in the interest of the traders.

"We have to look at all the options to see what was the best way to move forward. We did that and now this is the best option."

Among the improvements planned will be new lighting and heating, power doors and ceiling tiles.

The council has confirmed that £8,000 of the money will be coming from the Burgess Land Trust.

Councillor Kaye said rents had also now been revised so they were the same across all stallholders.

Commissioner to cycle 500 miles



Dafydd Llywelyn is gearing up for his cycle challenge for charity

A POLICE and crime commissioner is taking on a 500-mile cycle ride to visit every station in his force in aid of charity.

Dyfed-Powys Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn will set off on the cycle ride next week, facing 12 hours a day in the saddle for five days to raise money for Safer Dyfed-Powys Diogel.

The charity will distribute and generate funds to be invested into the local community with the aim of crime prevention and reducing the fear of crime.

Mr Llywelyn will be joined by a team of riders during his five-day route and has admitted the challenge is a little daunting.

However, he is looking forward to hearing from as many people as possible in all the towns and stations around the force area.

He added: "I'm a keen cyclist, but haven't had the opportunity to do as much as I'd like to in recent years. I also really value getting out meeting and hearing from as many people as possible, so I thought why not launch the charity by setting myself the challenge of cycling around the force area."

Faulty goods put lives at risk, council bosses say

A LOCAL authority has warned second hand electrical retailers selling faulty goods are putting lives at risk.

Powys County Council's trading standards service is reminding businesses who deal in second hand goods that they must only sell appliances that have passed safety tests.

More than 4,700 fires in the UK last year were caused by electrical goods alone, an average of 13 per day, according to Electrical Safety First.

Councillor James Evans, cabinet member for trading standards, said: "Businesses need to know they are responsible for the products they sell and make sure those goods are safe before they leave the door."

"Goods should be checked to ensure live parts are not exposed, wires are not frayed and that creepage and clearance distances are within regulations."

"If a business fails to comply, they could face severe penalties, including possible imprisonment or manslaughter charges should their faulty goods result in a death." To help businesses stay within the law, a free-to-use government funded service has launched a new animation guide along with in-depth guides on second-hand electrical goods. Business Companion, which provides support and advice on trading standards and consumer protection legislation, has produced the guides which provide details on safety testing, legislation and potential penalties for failing to comply as well as links to product recall services.

For more information e-mail trading_standards@powys.gov.uk

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12 Festival is set to hit the right note once again

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, April 26, 2018

FINAL plans have been made for Whittington Music Festival which runs from May 15 to May 20.

Organisers say this year they've "broken the mould" and the festival features the work of 15 very different British composers spanning 300 years of musical history.

Chairman Rob Greaves said: "There's barely a month to go before Whittington's 'Fantasia on a British theme' gets under way, so it's high time to get your tickets, if you haven't already."

"The easiest way is to order online and print them yourself."

"Otherwise pop into Rowanthorn in Oswestry or Whittington Post Office, or send a cheque to the festival office. If you are under 25 you can get your free tickets by ringing (01691) 657986."

"This exciting and varied programme will be performed as usual by an extraordinary ensemble of 15 international artists, including the Elias Quartet and other familiar faces. Appearing for the first time are Becky Jones, principal viola of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and Belgian violinist Liesbeth Baelus."

"Thank you to everyone who supported our excellent fundraising concert in mid-March which raised over £500."

"We look forward to seeing you at what promises to be our best festival yet."

Garden appeal is boosted by £50,000 grant

A FUNDRAISING appeal to create a hospital garden where patients will be able to have their beds and life saving equipment has been awarded a £50,000 grant.

Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital launched an appeal to build the £600,000 Horatio's Garden at its Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries.

It was given the go-ahead earlier this month and now the appeal has been chosen as one of the 2018 Garden and Health charities and given £50,000.

The initiative is part of the National Garden Scheme and will see the money go towards creating the spectacular garden at the hospital.

The centre services serves Shropshire, Cheshire, the West Midlands, North Hereford and North Wales and has been designed by Bunny Guinness, well known as a Gardeners' Question Time panellist on Radio 4 and a writer for the Telegraph.

It will be one of a number of Horatio's Gardens that are being created at spinal units across the country.

Owen Paterson, the Conservative MP for North Shropshire, broke his back while out horse riding earlier this year.

He said: "Having spent several weeks immobile in the outstanding care of the Midlands Centre for Spinal Injuries, I fully appreciate the extraordinary value, for those who may have to spend months on their back, of getting outside, seeing and touching plants and flowers and spending time with family and friends."

Permission given to chicken plans

THE number of chickens at a rearing unit is set to double to more than 60,000 after an application for a new building was granted.

RB Jones and Sons submitted a planning application to expand an existing free range egg complex at Black Hall in Llandysil near Montgomery.

A planning meeting in Llandrindod Wells heard from planning officers who recommended the application for approval, and it was passed by councillors on the committee as per the recommendation.

The recommendation said: "Officers are satisfied that the proposed development complies with the relevant policies within the Powys Unitary Development Plan 2010 and Powys County Council Local Development Plan and the recommendation is one of conditional consent in line with the conditions as set out."

Permission was granted in 2011 to build a unit to house 32,000 free range chickens, and the new application will see a similar unit built and the amount of chickens doubled to 64,000. Currently the land on which the unit would be built is used for grazing.

Frontline officers are owed thousands of days off, new figures from forces reveal

Report by Dominic Robertson

corded a total of 8,652 rest days owed to officers as at October 11, 2017.

The forces have a combined 2,916 police officers.

Figures obtained under Freedom of Information laws show there were almost a quarter-of-a-million rest days owed to 70,000 police officers in England and Wales as of September 17 last year – the last time the country's terror alert was at "critical" following the Parsons Green terror attack, often resulting in holidays and time off being cancelled.

Some 237,697 rest days were either cancelled, outstanding or waiting to be re-rostered per officer, according to just over 30 forces with data.

The figures do not include the Metropolitan or West Midlands forces.

Richard Elkin, director of enabling services at West Mercia Police, said: "West Mercia Police consider the health and welfare of all staff a priority."

"The nature of policing and the operational demands mean that unfortunately there will be occasions when a rest day or days need to be cancelled, however this is done with as much notice as possible so as to try not to impose on the officer's personal life."

"In consultation with the West Mercia Police Federation, it is our policy to allow up to five days to be banked so that officers can carry up to five days of rest days which can be re-rostered in accordance their wishes wherever possible."

"A new policing model launched this month has been developed in order to help deliver resources where they are most needed at times most required through a new shift pattern aligned to better meet those local demands."

"All of the above helps to reduce the need for a build-up of rest days which for West Mercia police officers the figures show are below the average of all forces."

The figures compound Home Office data released last summer that there were 123,142 officers across all ranks in England and Wales at the end of March last year, which the report said was thought to be the lowest number since 1985.

Police numbers 'on the up' despite claims in report

Report by Jonny Drury

REPORTS that a drop in the number of police has led to more violent crime does not reflect policing in Shropshire, according to the region's police and crime commissioner John Campion.

A leaked Home Office document has revealed that the fall in police numbers is likely to have contributed to a rise in violent crime across the country.

The document, from February, reveals that forces have faced greater demand since 2012 due to an increase in the number of recorded sex offences, while during the same time officer numbers have also fallen.

It also states that a lack of resources and fewer people being charged for crimes may have encouraged offenders to commit offences.

However, West Mercia Commissioner John Campion insisted that police numbers in the region have increased in recent years rather than decreased.

Questioned

He has also questioned the focus on figures, insisting that keeping communities safe is "not just a numbers game".

He said: "In the last few years the number of violent crimes recorded by police forces nationwide has gone up."

"In West Mercia, over the same period, our numbers of officers increased rather than decreased."

"Keeping communities safe is not just a numbers game. It is about understanding crime and its causes better and using our resources more effectively and efficiently to deal with it."

The leaked Home Office document comes after 300 more Met police officers were deployed on the streets of London following a spike in knife crime, which has seen dozens of people killed in the capital this year.

The government has responded to the report by saying that it does not comment on leaked documents.

It has also rejected claims that officer numbers are a factor in the rise of violent crime.

The number of officers in West Mercia has fallen since 2012, when there were 2,219 total officers and 1,264 listed as being on foot patrol. In 2017 there were 2,079 officers in total with 1,017 listed as being on foot patrol.

The 2017 figures did however represent an overall increase on 2014, when the force reported that it had 1,995 officers.

Group launches to help save historic church



Simon Baynes, Mayor of Llanfyllin David Goodman, the Reverend Hermione Morris, Ruth Weston and Keith Black at the launch

PEOPLE came together to mark the launch of a new group set up to save a town's historic church.

St Myllin's in the heart of Llanfyllin, like many other churches, has seen its funds dwindle in recent years due to declining congregations and spiralling running and maintenance costs.

In an effort to secure the church's future, a friends group has come together to explore fundraising opportunities and promote St Myllin's both as a place of worship and venue for other events.

More than 100 people came and went throughout the launch day, including Montgomeryshire's MP Glyn Davies and AM Russell George.

Simon Baynes, from the friends group, said: "The pupils from Llanfyllin High School provided live music which really made the occasion, there was a cake stall and coffee morning, and the treasures of St Myllin's were on display as well."

"The sun was shining and it was all rounded off by the bell ringing in the tower."

Speeches were given by the Rev Hermione

Morris and Llanfyllin Mayor David Goodman to officially launch the new group. Councillor Goodman said: "While we may not all be on the same hymn sheet when it comes to the spiritual side of life we can wholeheartedly appreciate the glorious passion that brought this church into being and how it has been cherished by many thousands of people through more than three centuries of continuous use."

The group's next fundraisers are an open garden at Bodfach Hall on May 28, and the town's St Myllin's Day celebrations on June 16.

Cardiac arrest patient back to marshal at triathlon

A PENSIONER who two years ago suffered a cardiac arrest taking part in a triathlon recently returned to the event as a marshal.

George Jones from Glyn Ceiriog near Oswestry registered to take part in the Chirk Triathlon at the age of 73 back in 2016.

He was part of a relay with two friends who took on the swimming and running legs and George taking on the cycling leg.

However while competing he suffered a cardiac arrest during the race on Church Street.

He was cared for by race marshals and the

St John's Ambulance volunteers, before being flown to the Royal Stoke University Hospital.

He fully recovered, and returned to marshal this year's event on April 15.

He said: "I've always been a keen cyclist, but I didn't like the running part – swimming was alright, but I've always found running awful."

"In the three years before my heart attack I'd been a member of a relay team taking part in the triathlon – and the combined age of the team was over 200."

"It went very well – I was marshalling from

noon until the end. And I was very impressed with those taking part."

"It's nice when riders who are really doing their best thank the marshals as they ride past – there's no need for them to do that."

"I'd like to have been taking part in it myself, but my days of doing it are finished."

As part of his recovery George underwent a 10-week exercise programme, part of which was designed by staff at Wrexham Maelor Hospital, and he regularly trained at Chirk Leisure and Activity Centre.

He has since remained a keen user of the centre and is keen to keep active despite not being able to compete.

After a recent bout of illness he returned to the centre recently.

He added: "I decided to take a break as I've just got over pneumonia but I was back in and I was delighted with the facilities there – especially being able to monitor my pulse."

"I'm 73 now, and I was hoping to be active into my eighties – I suppose I still will be, but not quite as fast as I'd hoped."

Drive to free up hospital beds shows positive results

A CAMPAIGN to tackle problems with discharging patients at Shropshire's two main hospitals has started to show positive results, bosses have revealed.

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH), which runs Telford's Princess Royal Hospital and Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, recently introduced its first ever Let's Crack It fortnight – which aimed to see that patients get discharged as soon as they are medically fit to leave.

SaTH's chief executive Simon Wright previ-

ously said the trust's hospitals are having to cope with an extra 100 plus patients than they have capacity for, with a major problem being the length of time it takes to discharge patients compared with admitting them.

The trust says there have been a number of improvements since the launch of the campaign on March 26.

During the first four days, the number of stranded patients – those in hospital for seven days or more – reduced from more than 350 to 258.

The trust says the "boarding" of patients has also reduced and it has had good support from community services and local authorities.

Princess Royal Hospital was said to remain under more pressure.

Boarding is a term used for patients who are awaiting admission, but who are still in the emergency department beyond agreed service standards. The term also accounts for patients on wards who are not in properly configured beds.

Representatives from NHS Improvement

and NHS England were concerned about "boarding" on some wards when they visited Royal Shrewsbury Hospital's emergency department in February.

The Let's Crack It fortnight aimed to test new ideas and work differently in order to improve patient flow.

In January, the trust was ranked the worst in the country for its A&E waiting times.

Around a third of patients had to wait longer than the four-hour government target, according to figures from NHS England.

Rocker's son set to perform



Rick Parfitt Junior will be bringing his band to Shropshire to perform

THE son of rocker Rick Parfitt is bringing his band to a charity gig near Oswestry.

The Moulin Rouge Ball will be held at Moreton Hall School on May 25, with the RPJ Band, led by Rick Parfitt Junior, providing the entertainment.

The son of Status Quo's Rick Parfitt combines his life as a motor racing driver with leading his rock and roll band.

Megan Ford from the independent school for girls, said: "RPJ Band promises to have the audience on their feet, hands in the air and dancing from the very first song."

"It is one of the most energetic, crowd

pleasing, foot stomping, hands in the air, incredible, never to be forgotten best event band in in the world."

The May ball on the Moulin Rouge theme is being held in aid of the new Holroyd Community Theatre at the school.

Beginning with a sparkling reception and canapés the evening will include a dinner and a breakfast of bacon baps. Fundraising for the new theatre will include a raffle for a holiday home holiday. There will also be a chance to sponsor a seat within the new theatre. Tickets are available from Megan Ford at ford@moretonhall.com

Key planning document gets the green light

A BLUEPRINT for the future development of homes, businesses and renewable energy in Powys has finally been rubber-stamped seven years after work started.

Work first began on Powys's Local Development Plan (LDP) back in 2011, however after numerous set backs a full Powys County Council meeting on Tuesday last week finally gave the seal of approval to the plan, which sets out the county's planning strategy until 2026.

Under the plan 4,500 new homes will need to be built before 2026 and proposals show where land can be developed for new businesses, wind and solar energy. There is now a six-week period where any high court challenges can be lodged, before the plan is implemented in May.

Councillor Martin Weale, portfolio holder for regeneration and planning, said: "The plan sets out a clear and strong strategy for meeting the future needs of the county's communities over the next decade."

"By focussing development on our market towns and largest villages, it provides the direction and certainty to support investment and enable economic opportunities to be seized, to grow and support viable service centres and for housing development to accommodate our growing and changing household needs." After work began in

Report by Jonny Drury

2011, a first draft of the plan was rejected. Revised plans included proposals for wind turbines in a bid to meet a government renewable energy target. It was slammed by politicians and sparked a demonstration outside County Hall from campaigners.

New plans were put forward which saw the region's wind energy cut by 90 per cent from 600 megawatts to 60, and 20 areas were deemed suitable for solar developments.

Only last month Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies, who has fought plans for large scale wind development in the past, hoped that by passing the LDP the council would kill off any future plans for large wind farms and pylons.

The plan was declared sound by inspector Nicola Gulley and despite some late objections about the method used to identify areas for solar development the new proposals were passed.

Councillors heard at last week's meeting how there was a need to develop 4,500 new homes in the county before 2026 with 952 being affordable homes.

Chairman of Powys's planning committee Councillor David Price said: "It has taken a long time to get here and there has been some extraordinary work by the team."

Other councillors congratulated staff at the council for preparing the long awaited plan, before it was unanimously voted through.

Spinal injuries in spotlight

SPINAL injury experts from across the country attended a conference in Shropshire.

Surviving Spinal Injury – The Journey event was held at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital where about 100 delegates heard about treatments, research and the latest technology helping people with spinal cord injury.

The conference was organised by Lanyon Bowdler partner Dawn Humphries and Emma Broomfield, of the firm's personal injury and clinical negli-

gence teams, chaired the event. Dawn said: "Listening to experts involved in the global pioneering work with spinal injury was amazing."

"We heard about ongoing efforts to find a cure, cell transplantation and how the latest technology was helping patients through rehabilitation."

"Professor Wagih El-Masri, the eminent spinal consultant, gave us an insight into the development of SCI medicine and his involvement in the tremendous

strides that have been accomplished over the last 46 years."

"He developed and led the Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries (MCSI) in Oswestry between 1983 and 2014 and has treated more than 10,000 SCI patients at acute, sub-acute and chronic stages. In the mid 20th century, people generally died shortly after a SCI, but survival rates have improved significantly due to the pioneering work undertaken in Oswestry and elsewhere in the country."

Upgrading of 13 lights set to take 36 years

IT will take 36 years for Shropshire Council to switch its street lighting to energy efficient bulbs, the authority has revealed.

And it does not expect to see any savings from its street lighting budget when the work is complete, saying that any efficiency benefits will be offset by the cost of installing more lights and rising electricity prices.

Meanwhile, Telford & Wrekin Council says it will more than double its street lighting budget this year as it upgrades more than 20,000 street lights across the borough by installing more efficient LED lighting.

Shropshire Council maintains just over 18,000 street lights across the county. Responding to a request under the Freedom of Information Act, the council's director of place and enterprise George Candler said the authority had so far installed 3,169 LED lights. "The authority is programming between 450 and 500 changes each year, subject to funding, which means it will take at least 36 years before all lighting is LED or its equivalent," he added. Mr Candler said the amount the council spent on installing, running and maintaining street lighting had steadily risen over the past four years. During the 2015/16 financial year, the authority spent just under £1.64 million, rising to £1.67 million in 2016/17 and £1.89 million in 2017/18.

Crown court work is just about finished

WORK to convert Shrewsbury Magistrates Court into the town's new crown court is nearing completion.

Months of renovation work has been undertaken at the building on Preston Street.

The highly-anticipated move follows concerns that the crown court is outdated and not fit for purpose.

In 2016 the custody suites at the crown court were found to be "dirty, oppressive and contained substantial amount of graffiti" during an inspection.

Some of the graffiti found by inspectors in the cells was racist.

A planning application has now been lodged with Shropshire Council for new signage at the court which will be known as Shrewsbury Justice Centre.

Reader solves fountain query

OSWESTRY man Steven Jones has shed light on a question we asked our readers in a recent edition of the Chronicle.

We used an old image of the Bailey Head in our popular nostalgia section on our letters page recently and asked if anyone knew what happened to a water fountain which featured in the image. Steven, 64, called the office to say the fountain was removed and used as a feature in a local businessman's garden.

He said: "I must have been about 16 or 17 when it was removed so it was quite a while ago. I know about it because my father was one of the men who helped remove it."



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Adventure is your destination at show

Commercial feature

The wonderful destinations of Mid Wales and the Heart of England take centre stage at a major spring caravan and motorhome show coming to Shrewsbury.

The West Midlands Caravan, Motorhome and Destinations Show 2018 is being held at Salop Leisure's headquarters from Saturday, April 28 to Monday, May 7.

It's the UK's largest free caravan exhibition, showcasing the latest 2018 models from leading manufacturers.

In addition to being a one-stop-shop for customers seeking to buy a caravan holiday home, luxury lodge, touring caravan, motorhome or campervan, this year's show will be promoting three distinct holiday destinations.

Show visitors will be encouraged to explore the Heart of England zone with falconry displays, a wildlife experience, food and wine, fishing and water zorbing.

Or they can immerse themselves in nature in the beautiful countryside of inland Mid Wales where they can enjoy rock climbing, mobile potholing, slate art, canoeing, mountain biking, paddle boarding, campfire cookery, orienteering, den building and treasure hunts.

The third destination choice is the Mid Wales coast where parents and grandparents can connect with their family at a giant sandpit and enjoy raft building, donkey rides paddle boarding and a treasure hunt.

The free activities are at weekends only during the show.

There will be more than 150 new and pre-owned touring caravans, in excess of 50 motorhomes and campervans and more than 50 holiday homes and luxury lodges on display together with a huge range of accessories and awnings.

The show will also see the launch of Salop Leisure's bi-annual Caravan Holiday Home



A fully interactive mobile caving system will feature at the West Midlands Caravan, Motorhome and Destinations Show 2018

Buyer's Guide. The publication is designed to guide prospective buyers through purchasing and siting a caravan holiday home or luxury

lodge. More than 150 of the finest caravan holiday home parks in the Heart of England, inland Mid Wales and the Mid Wales Coast are

promoted in the guide. For more information about the West Midlands Caravan, Motorhome and Destinations Show 2018 and to download

your free tickets people can visit <http://www.caravanevent.co.uk/> or they can call Salop Leisure on 01743 282400.



There is plenty for everyone to enjoy at the West Midlands Caravan, Motorhome and Destinations Show 2018

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ACTIVITY PROGRAMME (FREE OF CHARGE)

Saturday 28th April & 5th May	Location	Times
Archery	Love2Stay Playing Fields	10am - 4pm
Campfire Cookery	Love2Stay Playing Fields	11am, 130pm, 330pm
Donkey Rides	Holiday Home Village Mid Wales Coastal Area	11am - 4pm
Falconry Experience (28th only)	Holiday Home Village Heart of England Area	10am - 4pm
Kayaking	Love2Stay Lake	10am, 1030am, 11am, 1130am, 3pm
Mountain Biking Time Trial	Love2Stay Bike Track	10am - 12pm
Orienteering	Love2Stay Playing Fields	10am, 11am, 2pm, 3pm
Paddle Boarding	Love2Stay Lake	10am, 1030am, 11am, 1130am, 3pm
Mobile Potholing Experience	Holiday Home Village Mid Wales Inland Area	10am - 4pm
Rock Climbing	Holiday Home Village Mid Wales Inland Area	10am - 4pm
Treasure Hunt	Love2Stay Playing Fields	4pm
Water Zorbing	Love2Stay Lake	12pm, 1230pm, 1pm, 130pm

Sunday 29th April & 6th May	Location	Times
Archery	Love2Stay Playing Fields	10am - 4pm
Campfire Cookery	Love2Stay Playing Fields	11am, 130pm, 330pm
Falconry Experience (29th only)	Holiday Home Village Heart of England Area	10am - 4pm
Fishing Competition	Love2Stay Lake	230pm - 530pm
Kayaking	Love2Stay Lake	10am, 1030am, 11am, 1130am, 3pm
Mountain Biking Time Trial	Love2Stay Bike Track	10am - 12pm
Orienteering	Love2Stay Playing Fields	10am, 11am, 2pm, 3pm
Paddle Boarding	Love2Stay Lake	10am, 1030am, 11am, 1130am, 3pm
Mobile Potholing Experience	Holiday Home Village Mid Wales Inland Area	10am - 4pm
Rock Climbing	Holiday Home Village Mid Wales Inland Area	10am - 4pm
Treasure Hunt	Love2Stay Playing Fields	4pm
Water Zorbing	Love2Stay Lake	12pm, 1230pm, 1pm, 130pm, 2pm
Wildlife Experience (6th only)	Holiday Home Village Heart of England Area	10am - 4pm

Monday 30th April & 7th May	Location	Times
Archery (7th only)	Love2Stay Playing Fields	10am - 4pm
Campfire Cookery	Love2Stay Playing Fields	11am, 130pm, 330pm
Kayaking	Love2Stay Lake	10am, 1030am, 11am, 1130am, 3pm
Mountain Biking Time Trial	Love2Stay Bike Track	10am - 12pm
Orienteering	Love2Stay Playing Fields	10am, 11am, 2pm, 3pm
Paddle Boarding	Love2Stay Lake	10am, 1030am, 11am, 1130am, 3pm
Mobile Potholing Experience (7th)	Holiday Home Village Mid Wales Inland Area	10am - 4pm
Raft Building	Love2Stay Lake	1pm, 330pm
Rock Climbing (7th only)	Holiday Home Village Mid Wales Inland Area	10am - 4pm
Treasure Hunt	Love2Stay Playing Fields	4pm
Water Zorbing	Love2Stay Lake	12pm, 1230pm, 1pm, 130pm, 2pm
Wildlife Experience (7th only)	Holiday Home Village Heart of England Area	10am - 4pm

AT SALOP LEISURE, SHREWSBURY, SY5 6QS



16 Consultation on health plan set to take place

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, April 26, 2018

THE long-awaited public consultation on Future Fit is expected to start in the third week of May, health bosses have revealed.

The public consultation, which will help shape the future of hospital services in the county, will run for 12 weeks and will allow people to attend meetings and drop-in events. People will be able to visit stalls containing information and speak directly to clinicians.

The arrangements are currently being finalised but it will gather feedback from people across Shropshire and Powys.

Dr Julian Povey, chairman of Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group, said it looks likely that the public consultation, which puts forward two options, will now launch in the third week of May.

The preferred Future Fit option, signed off by Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin clinical commissioning groups, includes siting the county's emergency department at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Under that model, Telford's Princess Royal Hospital would take on responsibility for providing planned care.

The second option would be for PRH to house Shropshire's emergency department and for RSH to become the planned care site.

The proposals also involve both PRH and RSH having an urgent care centre.

Investment pays off for air ambulance

THE Midlands Air Ambulance charity has been awarded Investors in People and Investors in Volunteers accreditations, demonstrating its commitment to investing in local people and good management practice.

The recent review took place at the charity's HQ in Stourbridge, as well as the West Bromwich charity shop.

Both employees and volunteers were overwhelmingly positive about their experiences with the Midlands Air Ambulance charity, and the reports noted a clear team-spirit and enthusiasm.

Since 1991 and 1995 respectively, Investors in People and Investors in Volunteers standards are nationally recognised as a sign of employer excellence and outperforming places to work and volunteer.

Angela Watkins, director of business support for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, said: "Our people are at the heart of everything we do. The aircrew, charity team and our volunteers are the backbone of the charity."

"Everyone has their part to play in helping to save lives across the region, and we are exceptionally proud this has been recognised by Investors in People and Investors in Volunteers."

"A big thank you to all of our staff and volunteers for taking part in the assessments."

To find out more about either standard, visit www.investorsinpeople.com and iiv.investinginvolunteers.org.uk/

New single set to be released

A GIRL group is hoping to break into the charts while raising awareness of mental health with their debut single, My Mind and I.

Effervescent, which began in a school music department, are holding a single-release gig in Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury, on Sunday.

The three members are Harriet Rose, 17, from Shrewsbury, Jay Morrison-Little, 17, from Gobowen and Laura Powell, 18, who lives in Ellesmere.

Laura said: "We all met at Lakelands Academy as we were in the music department."

Effervescent started out by busking in Shrewsbury and Chester to raise money for the school music department and then continued by playing at events such as Merefest, headlining multiple times, as well as the O2 Institute in Birmingham.

In 2017/18, the group became part of an artist development programme called MAS Records, which has Robert Plant as a patron.

For more details visit the website effervescenceband.com.

Latest figures show a dramatic fall in the number of people out of work in region

Report by James Pugh

ruary to 32.2 million – the highest figure since records began in 1971.

Unemployment fell by 16,000 to 1.42 million, the lowest in more than a decade, giving a jobless rate of 4.2 per cent, the lowest since 1975, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Despite the encouraging drop in general unemployment, the amount of people in the region claiming unemployment benefits, including Jobseeker's Allowance and the unemployment element of Universal Credit, has risen. Nationally the claimant count also increased by 11,600 last month to 855,300 – the highest for more than three years.

In the West Midlands the claimant count rose by 2,835 to 95,615. The jump is thought to be a statistical anomaly and comes because of the increasing roll-out of Universal Credit across the region. The Shropshire Council area saw an increase of 80 more claimants compared with the previous month, taking the total to 2,425, meaning 1.3 per cent of the workforce was receiving jobless benefits.

In Telford and Wrekin, there were 70 more claimants, making its total 2,090. This represents 1.9 per cent of the workforce. In Powys, the amount of claimants remained 785. This represents one per cent of the workforce. Nationally, earnings have grown slightly above inflation for the first time in almost a year.

Average earnings increased by 2.8 per cent

in the year to February, unchanged on the previous month and the highest since September 2015.

Matt Hughes, senior ONS statistician, said the figures show that the job market in Shropshire and the wider West Midlands remains relatively buoyant.

He said: "The labour market continues to be strong and, for the first time in almost a year, earnings have grown slightly after inflation has been taken into account."

The number of people classed as economically inactive, including students, those on long-term sick leave, on early retirement, or who have given up looking for work, fell by 2,000 to 8.7 million in the latest quarter, giving a rate of 21 per cent, a joint record low.

Schools support service will be cut back despite plea

Report by Jordan Reynolds

A SERVICE which supports Shropshire's failing schools will be scaled back after moves to block the decision were rejected.

Shropshire Council's cabinet agreed to reduce the Education Improvement Service (EIS), while acknowledging a "substantial risk" that standards would slip.

The number of full-time staff is set to be cut by almost half in a bid to save the £276,000 a year.

The decision has been met with heavy criticism from the council's Liberal Democrat group which called the proposal in to be debated by the council's performance management scrutiny committee at a meeting recently.

Lib Dem Councillor Hannah Fraser asked for the committee to send the report back to cabinet and ask members to find the extra funds.

She said: "Shropshire has seen a real improvement in its number of good schools."

Children

"There are still children in Shropshire in schools that require improvement."

"The reason for this call-in is to support every child in Shropshire."

"Each child only goes through education once."

"Schools in Shropshire are poorly funded compared to other schools across the country."

"Their resources are really tight at the moment, schools are struggling and making hard decisions every day about what they're going to cut."

"Children are doing without as a result of the current funding structure."

"The service going forward will rely on associate headteachers for that support, I think that this can't help but be detrimental."

"The council has got its priorities badly wrong and if it wanted to fund this it would."

"If you look at the purchase of the shopping centres, IT improvement, these funds could be used to support other services."

Les Ball, headteacher at Norbury Primary School and acting headteacher at Chirbury and Stiperton schools, spoke at the meeting and said he had had huge support from the service. He said: "Without that I think at least one, maybe two, of the schools would not exist, and the other would be in serious danger."

Committee members voted on whether to call the matter back to cabinet, and it was thrown out on chairwoman Claire Wild's casting vote.

Cash boost for Special Olympics organisation



Members of the Special Olympics group watch the rotary club members carry out the Tree of Light cheque presentation

THERE were mixed emotions when Oswestry Rotary Club members visited Oswestry Leisure Centre for the Monday night training session of the North Shropshire Special Olympics group recently.

Rotary club president Dave Davies, Tree of Light Appeal organiser Mike Jones and rotarian Denzil Ellis presented a cheque from the appeal to the group's chairman Brian Johnson.

Mr Johnson said: "We are very grateful to the supporters of the Tree of Light for providing funds for equipment and running costs which are much appreciated by our athletes."

North Shropshire Special Olympics is a club offering sporting activities for children and adults with physical and learning disabilities. Sports include athletics, swimming, basketball, table tennis, badminton and boccia plus adapted sports for the less able.

The club operates as part of the international Special Olympics organisation and can offer regular opportunities for competition within the Midlands region and nationally.

The evening was also the final night for head coach Grahame Poole and his wife Pam who are retiring having joined the club over

11 years ago when Grahame volunteered to be an umpire at the group's regional table tennis competition. Grahame's hard work and dedication was recognised in March 2011 when he was named Volunteer of the Year by the Special Olympics UK governing body.

"Grahame and Pam will be much missed. Graham is always the first to volunteer if any job needs doing," said Brian. He added: "Anyone interested in attending a trial session in any of the sports provided or to become a volunteer to help with the group should contact me on (01691) 657370."

Spain favourite hotspot for Salopians' holidays

A TOTAL of 263,000 Shropshire passengers flew from Manchester Airport last year – with Majorca being the county's favourite destination.

A total of 10,674 Salopians travelled to the Spanish holiday island last year, according to new figures released from the airport.

And it seems Shropshire holidaymakers can't get enough of all things Hispanic, with five of county's top 10 short-haul destinations being in Spain.

Alicante, on the Costa Del Sol, was the coun-

ty's second favourite destination, with 9,927 people making the journey.

Gran Canaria, famed for its all-year-round sunshine, came third with 8,223 Salopians making the journey.

The Portuguese capital Lisbon came fourth, attracting 7,314 visitors, followed by the Greek island of Corfu on 6,456, and Malaga on 6,415.

But not all Shropshire folk are sun seekers.

Icelandic capital Reykjavik and Geneva in Switzerland took seventh and eighth spots in the short-haul table.

Reina Sofia airport in southern Tenerife was the ninth most popular short-haul destination, followed by the Faro in the Algarve.

For long-haul flights, it seems the Americas are the destinations of choice for Shropshire folk.

Orlando was the most popular destination, with 5,968 visitors from the county making the flight from Manchester.

New York's John F Kennedy airport came second, with 5,488 visitors.

The Caribbean islands were also popular,

with Bridgetown in fourth place, attracting 3,440 visitors from Shropshire.

Chicago was the fifth-most popular long-haul destination, with 1,974 visitors from the county, followed by Singapore with 1,627, and Toronto with 1,479.

Goa, with 1,166 visits, and Dubai, with 1,131, made up the rest of the top 10.

For Welsh passengers, Orlando was the most popular destination followed by Los Angeles.

Nationally, Orlando was the most popular destination with the airport's users.

Further talks to be held over new ticket office hope

FURTHER talks are taking place this week about building a ticket office room on a busy train station platform.

After initial plans were discussed about putting a new building on Welshpool train station platform, this week Welshpool Town Council's clerk Robert Robinson is meeting with officials from Network Rail to move plans forward.

The platform, which is on the Cambrian Line which runs from Mid Wales to Shrewsbury and onto Birmingham, has seen increased usage in recent years.

That is largely down to more services being put on daily between Mid Wales and Shrewsbury.

Now further talks will take place about introducing a room above the platform which will house a ticket machine and a seating area for people to stay warm and dry while they wait for their trains.

Mr Robinson said: "For this line we've probably got the least amount of facilities, so we are hoping these talks go well and things progress. "It will be above the platform so when people

go across the bridge, they will go straight into it and get their tickets.

"We will need to put a lift in as well for disabled and wheelchair access.

"Our ideas have been on the table and we will be meeting with Network Rail to discuss the next thing to do."

The platform has seen a huge increase in footfall since more services were put on the Cambrian Line between Mid Wales and Shrewsbury.

Only two years ago Welshpool Town Coun-

cil and the Welsh Government also worked to install a new car park at the station which can cater for up to 25 cars.

Mr Robinson said that the increasing footfall at the station and the use of the trains is proving to be a benefit to the town.

He added: "Some people say no-one comes to Welshpool, but they do and the increase in footfall helps the town."

The council clerk added: "More people are coming into the town as a result of more people using the station."

Town's bid for floral glory



The team which looks after Oswestry's Cae Glas Park celebrates the town's recent success in the In Bloom competition

OSWESTRY has launched its bid to be the blooming best in the country.

The town reached the finals of the national 2018 In Bloom competition by being judged the best in the region in the large town section last year. It is up against other regional winners in the UK-wide event.

In Bloom volunteers say it is a great honour and have appealed to local residents and businesses to do their bit.

Children from the Meadows Primary School recently rolled up their sleeves and began tidying and planting up parts of Henley Woods.

It followed a talk to the pupils during the winter from the chairman of Oswestry in Bloom Betty Gull.

She said: "It was wonderful to come across such enthusiasm in young people, they were very excited about getting involved."

"It is encouraging a real community spirit in the area and giving the children ownership."

"We are planting clematis and perennial geranium."

The In Bloom committee is also working with children at Bellan House School to produce a "magic carpet" of flowers at the entrance to Central Car Park.

"Children will be measuring out the area and deciding which plants should be used," Miss Gull said.

She said the In Bloom committee was small and had only limited resources.

"We would be extremely interested in hearing from anyone who would consider sponsoring a project - or even some of the plants that we are using in the magic carpet," she said.

"Also people who would like to give up a little of their time to help make Oswestry the best it can be for the judges' visit."

This year will see three different judging days in the town.

On July 13 the Heart of England in Bloom judges will be in Oswestry before the national judges arrive on August 1.

Oswestry In Bloom will also hold its own annual competition with expert gardener Margaret Thrower judging between July 16-18.

Safety fears lead to car parking move

COUNCILLORS have agreed to consult on introducing traffic regulation orders at council office car parks around Powys after access concerns were raised by emergency services.

Powys County Council's cabinet recently considered a report that found car parks at County Hall in Llandrindod Wells, Park Offices in Newtown, and other offices in the region were overflowing, and staff were parking on pavements and verges.

Health and safety concerns were raised by emergency services, who called for clear access routes to be put in place.

The cabinet was informed measures had taken place to meet health and safety requirements, however a consultation will now take place to introduce traffic regulation orders in all council office car parks around the county to remove any future risks.

Cabinet member for adult social care Councillor Stephen Hayes said social workers often visit council offices on a regular basis and only stop for a short period, and a way to tackle that problem could be to get workers with permits to park in nearby car parks.

Councillor Myfanwy Alexander believed another way to address the problem could be through car

Report by Jonny Drury

sharing. She said: "Currently some councillors are really good with car sharing, and this might be something else we could do and reward people who do share cars with access to parking spaces."

Once a consultation has taken place and traffic regulation orders are put in place, the council will explore other avenues which could see them spend £175,000 building a new car park at County Hall in Llandrindod Wells.

Plans in the report state that it would cost £120,000 to increase the current visitor car park, and a second option, to demolish the former archives building and build a car park in its place, would cost over £175,000.

In the report, Councillor Phyl Davies, cabinet member for highways, said that following a review: "If no reduction in car parking demand is found then capital investment in the corporate car parks may be required in order to meet current health and safety concerns."

At other council offices around Powys, it has been proposed to use pay and display car parks as overspill for council staff.

Another proposal that was passed was to launch an internal awareness campaign highlighting the implications of inappropriate parking at council offices which cause health and safety concerns.

Authority's waste services will get revamp to win trade

A LOCAL authority will revamp its trade waste and recycling services to take on competitors who are undercutting its prices.

Powys County Council's trade waste service is provided to 1,400 businesses around the county, with an annual turnover in excess of £1 million.

For many years the council has been the sole provider of collecting waste and recycling from businesses around the county at a fixed rate.

The authority has found that in the year 2016/17 there was an increase in cancelled customers, due to business closures, outstanding debt and difficulty getting to certain areas of the region. However, a report by cab-

inet member for recycling Phyl Davies has found that the main reason was due to the private sector undercutting the service currently charged by Powys.

In the report, it states that the undercutting is evident in the north of Powys where a new competitor has "entered the market using an aggressive marketing technique to gain custom".

The report states: "As with many local authorities, competition has now increased within the marketplace, which means that the council needs to compete in order to avoid losing customers, particularly the larger ones, leaving the council to pick up waste and recycling from the smaller businesses."

As well as collecting trade waste, the council provides a permit scheme for over 160 businesses to bring their recycling to local centres and sites.

However some businesses either have contracts with alternative providers or are using the household service illegally.

To tackle the decline in waste customers, the council has proposed to re-design its trade waste system to become more flexible in its charges and prices.

The report states that the move will "give the council the opportunity to compete with the private sector and generate income for the authority whilst maintaining a quality customer service."

Canal appeal will be helped by music event

ORGANISERS of a charity concert and music festival in Welshpool this summer have announced more details about the event.

Music for the Monty will be taking place in Welshpool during the Welshpool Transport Festival.

The festival runs from June 23-24 and more than a dozen musicians and bands have volunteered to busk at sites around Welshpool to raise funds for the Restore the Montgomery Canal appeal. The evening concert features Welshpool and Shropshire bands, The Kytes, I am Sam Acoustic and the Shropshire Boatmen, who are donating their talents for free. All proceeds from ticket sales will be going towards the appeal to reconnect the Montgomery Canal between Powys and Shropshire.

David Aylwin of Music for the Monty said: "The Montgomery Canal is one of the UK's most beautiful canals and over the past few years great strides have been made in reopening it to boats. But now we want to help raise awareness - and funds - so that the canal is reopened through to Welshpool and Newtown which will provide a significant tourist boost to the area."

Tickets for the evening concert priced at £8 are available from the Tourist Information Centre in Welshpool, Rowanthorn in Oswestry and at musicforthemonty.co.uk.

Hospitals' bank staff can now be paid weekly

WEEKLY pay is now being offered to people who join the pool of bank staff at Shropshire's two main hospitals.

The change at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH) was introduced in response to feedback from employees.

Bank staff provide cover for planned and unplanned shortfalls in staffing and staff absences.

Victoria Maher, workforce director at the trust, said: "If you're doing a bit of work here and there, a month is a long time to wait to get paid. Weekly pay gives more immediate gratification. It encourages loyalty."

SaTH, which runs the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Telford's Princess Royal Hospital, wants to reduce its reliance on agency nurses by increasing its own bank of staff.

The trust has held a number of recruitment events in recent months and is about to embark on a second drive to attract nurses from all over the West Midlands.

Victoria added: "We have to use agency staff to ensure we have enough staff on duty to provide safe care for our patients, but we would rather use our own bank staff as much as possible, not just because of the cost but because they provide better continuity of care for our patients."

Voting system could be changed

POWYS county councillors could go back to voting through a show of hands at meetings due to issues with the electronic voting systems.

Currently the 73 members who attend full council meetings use an electronic voting system to register their votes on certain issues discussed.

However, the member development working group has raised issues around alleged inaccuracies of the voting system and misrepresentation of how some members voted.

The report states that inquiries will be made regarding the system over worries about its accuracy.

Eyes down again for cash bingo fun

A CASH bingo evening returns to Welshpool this evening (Thursday)

The event takes place at the Corn Exchange.

The bingo starts at 7pm with doors open at 6.30pm.

Admission is £1 to include refreshments at half time and a lucky entrance ticket.

'Warmer weather needed to help butterflies'

CONSERVATIONISTS are hoping for warmer conditions after two species of butterfly suffered their worst year on record last year as numbers struggled in difficult weather conditions.

New data from 2017 has revealed that a cold snap in April and a wet summer meant butterflies, who need warm and dry weather to feed and mate, struggled with a loss of habitat and climate change.

Both grayling and grizzled skipper recorded their lowest numbers since records began, the second year in a row they have hit new lows, results from the annual UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme revealed.

Sarah Gibson, communications manager at the Shropshire

Wildlife Trust, said the organisation had seen a decline in numbers over the last year.

But she added the trust was hopeful an upturn in weather in the coming months would see butterflies flourish in the trust's nature reserves around the county. She said: "We have a number of grizzled skippers in the Oswestry hills where we have nature resources, and butterflies are quite prominent in the reserve at Llanymynech Rock. We have seen a decline in recent years, but the weather itself has not caused the problem, it has meant that the butterflies have been late emerging."

"We have done a lot of work in recent years around the Oswestry area, with the Llanymynech Rock being one of the

main areas. We are working with local landowners to improve the habitats for the butterflies which is key, and we are hoping for better weather conditions in the coming weeks and months to see increased numbers in the area."

National figures have shown grizzled skipper numbers were down nine per cent compared to 2016, and their population has more than halved since the 1970s, while graylings declined six per cent on the previous year and its numbers have shrunk by 63 per cent in a decade.

With cold wet conditions this spring, there are 'no immediate signs' things are going to pick up this year for butterflies, according to Butterfly Conservation's Professor Tim Brereton.

18 Vauxhall deal safeguards jobs at car company

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, April 26, 2018

NEWS that the two award-winning Arthurs Vauxhall dealerships in Shropshire and Mid Wales feature in Vauxhall Motors' future network plans have been greeted with delight by bosses.

The decision to give Arthurs Vauxhall new rolling contracts for their Oswestry and Newtown dealerships will, say bosses, secure the jobs of their 48 employees and offer the business "great confidence" to invest in the future.

Nigel Williams, Arthurs managing director, said he was delighted with the news which comes following Vauxhall Motors' announcement to terminate the contracts of every dealer in the UK and offer new contracts to preferred dealers going forward.

Mr Williams said: "Arthurs Vauxhall has always been obsessive about delivering the best levels of customer satisfaction which has resulted in us achieving six Vauxhall Customer Excellence Awards, at the same time, achieving a new car market share in our Oswestry and Newtown branches which is over double the national average. "We take great delight in being the market leader for new car sales in our territories for the last 20 years."

He said Arthurs, whose new contracts will be without an end date, had represented Vauxhall in Oswestry since 1940.

Opportunity to benefit from grant scheme

A LAND agent is urging farmers and land managers to apply for a slice of a £27 million grant scheme to improve the water environment across England.

The Water Environment Grant scheme launched by Defra, Natural England and the Environment Agency will provide £9 million each year over the next three years to applicants applying for funding to restore local eco-systems and deliver substantial benefits to people and the environment.

Potential projects could include river restoration activities, removal of obstacles to help fish moving along rivers and streams, or actions to improve the water quality.

The scheme is open to applicants until May 11, and Sarah Wedge, a land agent with Davis Meade Consultants in Oswestry said: "You can apply if your project lasts longer than a year but it must start by March 2019 and end by March 2021.

"There's no minimum value for a grant and you can apply for a maximum grant of £2 million for your project.

"The scheme is competitive, being scored on how it meets the scheme priorities and you can't carry out any activity that will give you commercial gain or profit."

To meet the criteria the project must meet a number of requirements and must be carried out by a charity, land manager, or a public body.

Funding will be awarded in August 2018.

For more information and advice contact Sarah Wedge on (01691) 659658.

Man sentenced for shop damage

A MAN has been made subject to a community order for causing almost £1,000 worth of damage to a Mid Wales business.

Jordan Richard Rhys Beeson, 20, of Bronybuckley, Welshpool, appeared before Welshpool Magistrates Court to face two charges.

It was alleged that on New Year's Eve, he trespassed in Powys Carpets Ltd in Welshpool, and stole three rolls of carpet valued at £90.

During a recent magistrates court appearance he indicated a plea of guilty and he also pleaded guilty to smashing the window of Constructiv Clothing in Welshpool on February 11.

The window was valued at £903, magistrates were told.

Beeson was made subject to a 12-month community order.

He was ordered to carry out 60 hours of unpaid work.

And he was ordered to pay £948 in compensation to the two businesses, and £85 in costs.

Beeson appeared before Welshpool Magistrates Court on April 10.

Police commissioner challenged to make domestic abuse a key priority for the future

POLICE chiefs have been challenged by an Oswestry town councillor to stem the "rising tide of misery" of domestic abuse.

West Mercia's Police Commissioner John Campion was taken to task by Oswestry Town Council member Duncan Kerr at the authority's annual meeting.

Councillor Kerr asked Mr Campion what steps he will take to help victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

The police and crime commissioner was guest speaker at the meeting at the Guildhall in Oswestry on Wednesday last week.

Councillor Kerr, a Green Party member, said: "What steps are you taking to stem the rising tide of misery from the dramatic increase in reports of domestic abuse?"

Report by Sue Austin

"According to Government statistics one in four women and one in six men will be a victim of domestic violence at some point during their life.

"In spite of this we have seen the closure of the refuge in Oswestry and fears for the financial stability of the remaining services for victims and survivors.

Complaints

"I understand that in Shropshire there was a 22 per cent rise in complaints last year alone.

"It had previously doubled in just four years.

"There is no local evidence to suggest that

this is entirely due to increased reporting. The comparative rate of domestic violence recorded crimes in West Mercia is higher than North Wales, Manchester, South Yorkshire and West Midlands and on a par with the Metropolitan Police.

"Neighbouring Dyfed-Powys has a level which is half of ours."

The councillor called on Mr Campion to make domestic abuse and violence against women in all its forms a major priority.

He said: "Instead of using up your energy on the take over of control of the fire service, would you focus instead on reducing the misery felt by the thousands of victims of domestic abuse?"

Mr Campion said: "I do see domestic abuse

as a priority and the police see it as a priority. There has been an increase in the recording of instances of domestic abuse, which is different to an increase in reporting.

"The recording of these crimes are much better than it has been before."

Caring

Mr Campion said that as well as caring for the victims and survivors of domestic abuse the police were also working with the perpetrators.

"We are working with the small number of repeat perpetrators to change behaviour," he said.

"There needs to be a change in the law to make it compulsory for offenders to engage with perpetrator programmes."

Council bosses want to hear about dog fouling problems

Report by Jonny Drury

RESIDENTS in Powys are being urged to report any incidents of dog fouling or particular problems in their area to the county council.

Powys County Council wants residents to email or telephone any dog fouling related problems so that a healthy and safe environment can be provided for residents, children and holidaymakers.

The council is also reminding dog owners in the county that they must clean up after their dog has fouled and properly dispose of the waste.

By reporting any incidents, the council can then arrange for the mess to be cleaned up, investigate the incident or take enforcement action against the dog owner.

Requests for 'No Fouling' signs and a combined litter and dog waste bin can also be made to the council.

Offence

It is an offence to allow a dog in your control, even if you're walking someone else's dog, to foul in a public place and to fail to clean it up immediately after it has fouled.

Public places include footpaths, playing fields, parks, car parks, churchyards and cemeteries.

If you fail to clean up then you could be issued with a £75 fixed penalty notice of face prosecution.

Councillor James Evans, cabinet member for environmental health, said: "We live in a beautiful county and we want to keep it that way but dog fouling impacts on the way communities look and we're determined to tackle the issue in Powys.

"The majority of dog owners are responsible but there is a minority who let their communities down by allowing their dogs to foul in public.

"By asking residents to report any dog fouling related problems, they can help us tackle this issue in their community."

The councillor added: "If you are out walking your dog, always carry a plastic bag to pick up the mess as soon as your dog has fouled and put it in the nearest dog waste or litter bin or dispose of it at home."

If you would like to report a dog fouling incident or advise the council of a particular problem in your area then email tls.helpdesk@powys.gov.uk or telephone 0845 602 7035 or 01597 827465.

Team ready to peak for children's charity



Training on Snowdon, from left, Chris Spriggs, Sean Bolas, Jeremy Rose and Robin Talbot of Ocean Telecom

A BUSINESSMAN and his colleagues are going to extraordinary heights to raise money for a children's charity.

Jeremy Rose, who runs Ocean Telecom on Mile Oak Industrial Estate in Oswestry, will be taking on the Three Peaks Challenge in May to raise money for charity The Movement Centre, which provides life-changing therapy to improve movement control in children who have a disability.

Jeremy felt inspired to raise money for The Movement Centre after visiting the charity last year.

He said: "After visiting The Movement Centre and seeing them in action and meeting a young child who goes to the charity to receive Targeted Training therapy, I was so impressed that I wanted to do something to contribute to the fantastic work going on there." The Movement Centre, founded in Oswestry, treats up to 60 children each year from all over the UK through a 12-month intensive course of Targeted Training therapy. It is the only provider of Targeted Training, which helps children who have a movement disability to gain control of their movement, which makes them

far more independent. Three members of the Ocean Telecom team, Robin Talbot, Chris Spriggs and Sean Bolas, will be joining Jeremy on the challenge which will see them scale the three highest mountains in the UK. Starting in Fort William, the team will climb Ben Nevis, Britain's highest peak in around five hours, before driving almost six hours to Scafell Pike in the Lake District. The last leg of the journey will be to Snowdon in North Wales, where the team have been carrying out regular training.

Anyone wishing to donate, should visit Jeremy's Just Giving page.

2,000 acres of land available for rent at a nominal fee

A UNIQUE opportunity is available for a farmer to rent more than 2,000 acres of land in Mid Wales for a nominal rent fee.

More than 2,000 acres of grass keep, including open hill, lower fields and two hay meadows near Llangynog will go on the market later this year.

The land is in the Glastir Advanced management scheme, with a high emphasis on habitats and wildlife, and the successful applicant will need to operate within certain restrictions.

That is why the landowner, who has chosen

not to be identified, is prepared to accept a nominal rental fee for the land.

The landowner is offering 2,025 acres of grass keep to outside management because he has other interests, and the exact rental amount has not been set, but a nominal fee would be accepted.

Clare Williams, of agents Roger Parry & Partners, said: "The landowner is more concerned about having the right person than having the right money.

"It is very rare for so many acres to become

available as grass keep for such a small fee. I am sure this offer will attract many graziers."

Of the land offered, 1,848 acres are open hill, the rest being lower fields and the two hay meadows, but it won't go on the market until October.

Glastir Advanced conditions mean that, in 2019, the land can only be grazed between the start of April and the end of September.

Additional stock conditions are in place on the hill land including being allowed to have between 150 to 490 sheep grazing from Octo-

ber 1 to December 31, and from January 1 to March 31.

Other conditions include being allowed to have between 600 to 1,296 sheep grazing from April 1 to June 30, and between 600 to 876 sheep grazing from July 1 to September 30.

Ms Williams added: "Although the land will not become available until then we suggest anyone interested should contact us as soon as they possibly can to register their interest."

For details, call (01938) 554499 or e-mail clare@rogerparry.net.

Simon's new book set to hit the silver screen



DJ turned author Simon Mayo was in Oswestry to talk about his new book

HE'S been the voice of radio for the last three decades – and now Simon Mayo has turned his hand to writing novels.

Mad Blood Stirling is the radio presenter's first adult novel with a handful of children's books already under his belt and it has already piqued the interest from Hollywood film producers. Inspired by a true story, Mad Blood Stirling is set in 1815, at the end of a little-known war between Britain and the US. It

tells the story of a group of American soldiers imprisoned in the brutal Dartmoor prison.

Oswestry was the latest stop on Simon's book tour of the country and he entertained a crowd at the Wynnstay Hotel. Hosted by the town's independent bookshop, Booka Bookshop of Church Street, the presenter-turned-author read extracts from the book and talked about the process alongside Caroline Lang from Moreton Hall school. "I was just doing some re-

search on Dartmoor when I found this story," Simon said. "It was a light-bull moment but I thought I couldn't have been the first person to stumble across it. So I did more research and that's when I realised it hadn't been told before." Film rights have been snapped up by former Film4 chief Tessa Ross and ex-Working Title TV boss Juliette Howell at House Productions, with Jack Thorne writing the screenplay. Simon has handed over the reins to Jack,

but the famous screenwriter was still keen to get Simon's opinion throughout the process. Simon said: "The first thing I wrote was a four-page synopsis and that alone sold the film rights. So the film was already in place before I had even started writing the book. I actually read the screenplay for the first time last week. The guy who is writing it wrote the Harry Potter play and has been signed up for the new Star Wars film."



Simon Mayo's visit was organised by Oswestry's Booka Bookshop

Walkers can enjoy the wonders

THERE are the seven wonders of the world, the seven wonders of Wales and now the seven wonders of the Oswestry hills.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust cares for seven nature reserves in the countryside around Oswestry and on Sunday it is inviting people to take part in a signed walk exploring the countryside that takes in the reserves. One of the largest is the Llanymynech Rocks reserve which lies at the southern end of the carboniferous limestone outcrop that stretches from Anglesey.

Others are Bwlytai Wood, Trefonen, a small wood awash with bluebells and wood anemones; Craig Sychtyn an old wood with views across to the Tanat Valley and beyond to the Berwyn mountains; Jones' Rough, a small steep limestone woodland set among many tiny fields and hedgerows with Offa's Dyke running through it; Sweeney Fen, a tiny fen and one of the most exquisite flower meadows in Shropshire; Dolgoch Quarry, an abandoned limestone quarry with wonderful wildflowers and Llyncllys Common, a mosaic of habitats, fantastic place for wild-life and plants.

All walks start from Trefonen Village Hall, which will open for registration at 8am. Walkers on the 14-mile route need to register between 8am to 10am and walkers on the seven-mile route need to register between 8am to 11am. For the two-mile guided walk, register at 1.30pm in Trefonen for the lift by minibus to the walk. Entrance fee is £10 for all walks.

'Shambolic' school closure plan anger

A POLITICIAN has described consultation into a school closure as "shambolic" and has called for the plans to be put on hold.

Wrexham Council voted to shut Ysgol Pontfadog near Oswestry and issued a statutory notice of closure.

The school has just 18 pupils and the council took the decision following a consultation on the future of three schools in the area.

However since the decision, the authority has admitted it did not look at all responses to a public consultation programme.

Ken Skates, the Clwyd South AM, said: "If Wrexham Council is admitting it didn't take into account all the views put forward then the whole exercise and the subsequent decision is flawed. It's shambolic.

"People need to have faith in the democratic process, not more reason to think the whole process was a charade and the decision to close Ysgol Pontfadog had already been made.

"Let's not forget that only six per cent of people who responded said they wanted the school to shut."

Chance to try out the bowling green

FANCY trying your hand at a bit of crown green bowling at the delightful 200-years-old walled garden setting of Oswestry's Wynnstay Hotel?

Wynnstay Bowling Club is offering people the chance to try grass bowls.

An open day on Wednesday from 10am through to 4pm sends out an open invitation to anyone who thinks they might be interested in trying this gentle sport.

Club members will be on hand on to show you how it all works and bowls plus buckets of advice will be provided free.

Warning from police

GOBOWEN residents are being reminded to be vigilant following a spate of thefts. Police received a host of calls regarding thefts and damage in rear gardens of properties over the weekend.

Town says cheers to its first ever beer and music festival



Ricky Smith performs music during the event in Montgomery



Event organiser Russ Honeyman from Monty's Brewery toasts the success of the festival

Report by Jonny Drury

A TOWN held its first beer and music festival at the weekend.

The festival took place in Montgomery on Saturday with beers on offer from both sides of the border, including the town's very own award-winning Monty's Brewery.

There was an array of cider and perry drinks on offer, as well as traditional real ales. Starting at 2.30pm, the festival took place at four venues across the town including the brewery's visitor centre. Other venues which formed part of the festival were The Dragon Hotel, The Crown Inn and Montgomery Town Hall.



Philip Field drinks from a horn



Lucy and Gary Sidaway raise a glass to the festival



Kerala Irwin gets into the spirit at the beer and music festival in Montgomery



Marty Legg, Sarah Long, Rob Ashman and Emma Legg enjoy the occasion

20 Poland's art heritage was focus of event

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, April 26, 2018

A CHARITY has helped Polish families get in touch with their cultural heritage.

People travelled across the Welsh border to Wrexham to lead more than 20 local children and their families in a colourful workshop at the Hightown Community Centre, in an initiative organised by the Qube Gallery in Oswestry.

The young people created a colourful array of papercuts.

The traditional art form, known as 'Wycinanki' was once a kind of home decoration in rural homes.

Women used sheep-shearing scissors to create paper shapes and pasted them onto their white-washed walls.

They designed cut-outs for weddings and family events, and created images for religious events, like cockerels for Easter.

The idea for the workshop was sparked by an earlier exhibition of Polish papercuts at Qube Gallery, on loan from the Horniman Museum in London.

Qube's arts development officer, Vanessa Baldry, said: "We wanted to hold the workshop in Wrexham because of the strong regional links with the Polish community."

"The Polish community were extremely enthusiastic about it the idea."

She added: "It was thrilling to see so many families turn up on the day and join in the activity."

Victims of yobs to get further help

VICTIMS of anti-social behaviour across Powys are set to receive support from a new service commissioned by the area's commissioner.

The service, Goleudy, has been commissioned by Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn, and provides support to anyone affected by crime and anti-social behaviour, regardless of whether they've reported it to the police.

The new service has seen the force invest in staff training and meet with local authorities, housing associations, health boards and the fire and rescue service with the intent of sharing resources to tackle the problem.

Mr Llywelyn said: "Goleudy offers a free and confidential service to support victims, families and witnesses in the Dyfed-Powys area. Personalised, practical and emotional support is offered to help these people survive crime and make them stronger."

"The services are accessible regardless of whether the incident has been reported to the police."

"It is important for the same level of support to be available for both victims of crime and anti-social behaviour and this will now be achieved."

"Goleudy's trained specialists will provide a smooth process supporting individuals whose specific circumstances may mean they alternate between being a victim of crime and victim of anti-social behaviour."

For more information visit www.goleudyvictimandwitnessservice.org.uk

Origins of store subject of talk

MEMBERS of the Oswestry Group of the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship held their April meeting at the Wynnstay Hotel.

The talk about the origins and expansion of Stan's Superstore in St Martins was given by Stan's two sons Pete and Rob Faulks. This was very interesting, especially for the members of the fellowship who had moved to the Oswestry area in recent years.

The next meeting of the Fellowship will be held on Tuesday next week at the Wynnstay Hotel. The subject for that meeting is the work of the Blood Bike volunteers.

The spring lunch is to be held on May 8 at the Narrowboat Inn. There will be a list available at the May meeting for members to book places and their choice of menu. If any members wish to attend the lunch but will not be at the May meeting they can book places for themselves and any guests by telephoning Kathy Lunt on (01691) 239086. The fellowship is a local group for government and other pensioners who are welcome to attend the meetings, which are usually held on the first Tuesday of each month.

Rare opportunity to purchase vineyard is set to tickle the palate of potential buyers

Report by Lucy Todman

ling White and the medium/dry white Summer Days.

The couple's daughter Nadine Roach said: "This has been a family-run business for a number of years."

"It was established in 2010 and since then we have won awards for our wine."

"This seemed like a sensible time for them to retire."

"This is quite a package."

"We have 6,000 vines, along with the shop, cafe and farmhouse."

"There is also the reputation of the vineyard."

"It has only been on the market for a couple

of weeks and we have already had a few people around."

"There have been no offers yet but there has been a lot of interest."

"It is a rare opportunity."

"We also have some stock."

"Whoever buys it will have it up and running easily."

"My parents are planning to spend more time with their grandchildren and are looking forward to having a bit more leisure time."

The property includes a maturing vineyard, a modern three bedroom family house, a shop, cafe and bond store.

The modern three bedroom family house also has two reception rooms and an office.

The 25-cover cafe is set among retail display

space, with a licence to sell alcohol produced on the site.

Most of the six acres is planted with vines, while a large turfed area gives the opportunity for camping or other uses, including the expansion of the vineyard.

The vineyard is on the site of a Roman fort and artefacts are displayed in the shop.

It covers five acres and the vines include varieties of Rondo – 2,000 vines producing red wine, Solaris – 3,000 vines producing white wine, and Phoenix – 1,000 vines producing sparkling white wine. The vines are pruned on the Double Guyot trellis system which is widely used in the wine regions of Bordeaux and California. The grape harvest usually starts in late September and can continue until November.

Report by Aimee Jones

PARENTS across Shropshire and Telford have been told whether their child has been offered a place at their preferred primary school – with almost all satisfied with their place.

On a day that has become known as National Offer Day, about half a million families received emails confirming their child's reception place.

Thousands of parents across the UK faced disappointment – but it was good news for most in the county.

In the Shropshire Council area, 95.4 per cent of pupils have been offered a place at their first choice school, while in the neighbouring Telford and Wrekin area the figure was 95 per cent.

Under the current system there is a maximum number of children that can be admitted to a school in each year group.

Pleased

Karen Bradshaw, Shropshire Council's director of children's services, said: "We are really pleased that such a high percentage of pupils will be going to their first preference of primary school in 2018."

"Although there is pressure for primary school places across the country, this has not been experienced to the same degree in Shropshire, where there are few pressure points."

"We work hard to ensure that as many children as possible are able to attend their preferred school. Although it is not possible in every case, almost 99 per cent of applicants will attend one of their top three preferred schools and all applicants have been offered a place."

In total there were 2,722 applications to Shropshire Council and the figures show that 95.4 per cent were offered their first preference school, three per cent were offered their second preference school, 0.3 per cent were offered their third preference school, while 1.3 per cent were given an alternative preference. In Shropshire the first preference figure has dropped just 0.1 per cent on last year.

In Telford & Wrekin there were 2,090 applications for reception places, with 99 per cent of applicants offered one of their preferred schools.

The figures show that 95 per cent were offered their first preference, three per cent were offered their second preference and 0.5 per cent were offered their third preference.

Parents who miss out on their first choice can appeal within 20 days.

Marines put students through their paces



The Royal Marines put Sixth Form students and Year 10 pupils at the Marches School in Oswestry through a drill

SIXTH Form students and Year 10 pupils at the Marches School in Oswestry have been put through their paces by serving Royal Marines.

The Royal Marines, who are based at nearby Shawbury, visited the Marches to give a presentation on life with the Marines, their experiences and the benefits of being in the forces.

They answered any questions the youngsters had who are seeking why the Marines could be a possible career path.

The Royal Marines finished the day by putting the students and pupils through a series of drills and exercises.

This was hard work for the youngsters, but an enjoyable experience for them nonetheless.

The Marches School is welcoming both the Royal Marines and the RAF during the summer term who will work with the Year 12 students.

Gareth Jones, assistant head of Sixth Form

at the Marches School, said: "It was a pleasure to welcome the Royal Marines to the Marches School and the students and pupils enjoyed listening to what they had to say and going through the tough drills."

"We find it extremely beneficial to have these sort of hands-on activities, to allow the students to think about their career path from current professionals, and we look forward to having these sorts of days again in the future".

Acting chief executive appointed to improve council

A LOCAL authority has appointed a new acting chief executive in a bid to improve its services.

Dr Mohammed Mehmet, who has worked as chief executive for Denbighshire County Council since May 2009, will take up the post with Powys County Council next month.

The authority's current chief executive, Jeremy Patterson, has been off on sick leave since October last year, shortly after the publication of a damning report into the council's children's services department.

Since then David Powell has stood in as in-

terim chief executive, before the council took the decision to appoint Dr Mehmet following a recommendation to the Welsh Government and Welsh Local Government Association that a package of support is provided to help the council to implement changes and improvements.

The authority's leader, Councillor Rosemarie Harris, is hoping Dr Mehmet can repeat his performance in Denbighshire, where he turned the council's fortunes around to make it one of the best performing authorities in Wales. She said: "I am delighted to announce the ap-

pointment of Dr Mehmet to the role of acting chief executive."

"He has been chief executive of Denbighshire for more than a decade, joining them at a time of challenge for the council with a difficult inspection of their children's services and their education provision."

"That council has gone from strength to strength and is now seen as one of the best performing councils in Wales. His role will be to lead transformation and improvement work within Powys."

"I would like to thank David Powell for the way he has carried out the role of chief executive at a very difficult time following the inspection of children's services."

"I'm pleased that David has accepted the role of deputy chief executive and will work closely with Mohammed to continue the delivery of the council's transformation and improvement agenda."

Dr Mehmet was the first chair of the National Procurement Board and has led a number of regional programmes.

Detached cottage has well maintained accommodation

An attractive detached cottage with well maintained accommodation set in around five acres of adjoining grazing, Wootton Fields, Queens Head, Oswestry is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £425,000.

Having oil fired central heating and double glazing, its accommodation briefly comprises two reception rooms, an inner hall, a rear lobby and fitted kitchen, a master bedroom with an adjoining dressing room, a second bedroom and a three piece bathroom. The property comes with a range of detached ancillary stores and is within easy reach of the A5 trunk road, enabling access to all major towns. In more detail a small porch approached off the fore has a stable door giving access, via a second door, into the lounge. The lounge has a multi-fuel stove set in an inglenook-style fireplace and a tile finished floor. Being well fitted with a range of modern matching floor and wall units and extensive work surfaces, in the kitchen, built-in appliances include a fridge, freezer, washing machine, electric oven and an electric hob with an extractor unit over. There is also complementary splash-back tiling, a tile finished floor, dual aspect windows and inset ceiling spotlights.

The inner hall has tiled flooring. The dining room has dual aspect windows and floor tiling. The rear lobby's floor is also tiled. A timber balustraded staircase rises from the lounge to a gallery landing on the first floor. The master bedroom has a dressing room and there is a second bedroom.

The bathroom is fully fitted with a three piece suite having a panelled bath with a shower fitting and screen, a pedestal wash hand basin, low-flush WC, tiled splash surfaces, an extractor unit and radiator/towel rail.

Outside, a gated access leads off the roadway with the drive approach crossing the adjoining paddock and leading to the property and outbuildings. The detached range of varied outbuildings are good for storage. The grounds extend away from the property and are ideal for various uses as desired. A public footpath crosses the site at the north eastern edge.

KEY FEATURES

Detached cottage

Around five acres

Two bedrooms

Two receptions

Detached ancillary stores

QUEENS HEAD £425,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Morris Marshall & Poole

TEL: 01691 679595

EMAIL: oswestry@morrismarshall.co.uk



Emma Bridgewater WALLPAPER Voyage Prestigious BLINDS Luxaflex Villa Nova ASHLEY WILDE INTERIORS MOSNEY MILL BLINDS
ASHLEY WILDE Villanova Designers Guild Jim Dickens Romo
NOW OPEN | 100 Castle Street, Oswestry | 01691 680111
Shades Window Blinds have moved and changed our name
Our new interiors store is now open and everyone is most welcome to come and browse. We have much more space to display our range of curtains, blinds and interior related gifts.
We have lots of new products to share, include a range of flooring, Sophie Allport & Mosney Mill homewares.
Harlequin SANDERSON Luxaflex ASHLEY WILDE BLINDS SOPHIE ALLPORT Vanessa Arbuthnot Byron and Byron Paint BLINDS Luxaflex CUSHIONS



Former pub is now spacious family home

MELVERLEY
£440,000

A former public house having bed and breakfast potential, Tontine Inn on Church Lane, Molverley, Oswestry is now a large detached seven en-suite bedroomed home.

Being spacious and well maintained in a pleasant location, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £440,000 with no chain. It has been recently upgraded to become a spacious family home. Having oil fired central heating and double glazing throughout, it includes a large sun room, an open-plan living/ dining room with an impressive fireplace, seven first floor bedrooms all with en-suite bathrooms or shower facilities. There is also a fitted kitchen, a guest lounge and ancillary ground floor toilets and stores.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595.



Former bakery is in semi rural position

WESTON
£225,000 <<<

A semi-detached former bakery, 1 The Bakery at Weston near Oswestry is a recently renovated Grade II listed semi-detached house located in a semi-rural position.

Having three bedrooms and an Air Source heating system, it is for sale through JJ Dell & Co at £225,000 with no chain. The property is a short distance from Morda village with a local shop, school and pub.The property has new timber double glazed window units and under floor heating to the first floor.

The reception hall has ceramic tiled flooring, as does the cloakroom/WC and a study area which also has a deep storage cupboard. The lounge also has ceramic tiled flooring.

Contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 for more details about the property.



CHARTERED SURVEYORS

PONTFAEN, NR. CHIRK



- Detached Victorian House In Delightful Rural Hamlet
- OFCH & DG
- Breakfast Kitchen With Dining And Living Area
- Reception Room With Cellarage
- Lounge And Sitting Room
- Morning Room (Used as a Cinema Room)
- Laundry Room
- Four Bedrooms (Master En-Suite)
- Two Bathrooms
- Countryside Views
- EPC Band - F

JJD998

GUIDE PRICE £670,000

OSWESTRY



- Four Bedroomed House On The Outskirts Of Oswestry
- CH And DG
- Kitchen
- Living Room And Dining Room
- Shower Room
- Four Bedrooms
- Toilet
- Double Garage
- Ample Car Parking
- Front And Side Gardens
- Adjoining Paddock
- EPC Band - E

JJD993

GUIDE PRICE £299,995

ST. MARTINS



- Semi-Detached House Within Walking Distance Of Village
- Facilities
- Entrance Hall
- Living Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Good Sized Rear Garden
- Garage And Car Port
- EPC Band -

JJD997

GUIDE PRICE £149,000

OSWESTRY



- Spacious Detached Family House
- Convenient For Town And Local Primary Schools
- GCH
- Reception Hall
- Dining Room & Living Room
- Kitchen
- Utility/Garden Room
- Three Bedrooms
- Well Maintained Gardens
- Garage
- EPC Band -E

JJD974

GUIDE PRICE £167,500

OVERTON ROAD, NR. ST. MARTINS



- Spacious Detached Character Cottage
- Set Within Extensive Grounds
- Reception Hall
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility And Cloakroom
- Large Living Room
- Four Bedrooms (One En-Suite)
- Parking For Up To 6 Cars
- Large Garage
- Workshop/Annex
- EPC Band - F

JJD953

GUIDE PRICE £410,000

PANT



- Detached Three Bed. Bungalow
- Village Location With Excellent Facilities
- Electric Heating & D/ Glazing
- Entrance Hall
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen And Utility
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Cloakroom
- Driveway And Garage
- EPC Band -F

JJD999

GUIDE PRICE £175,000

OSWESTRY



- Well Maintained Two Bed. Semi-Detached Bungalow
- On Regular Bus Route
- Entrance Hall
- Living Room
- Kitchen And Dining Area
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Driveway And Garage
- Car Port
- Good Sized Rear Garden
- EPC Band - D

JJD1000

GUIDE PRICE £159,950

WEIRBROOK, WEST FELTON



- Attractive Detached Country Cottage
- Quiet Country Lane Location
- Kitchen
- Cloakroom And Study
- Living Room
- Three Bedrooms
- Sun Room
- Garage And Ample Parking
- Approx. Half Acre Plot
- Large South Facing Rear Garden
- EPC Band-F

JJD927

GUIDE PRICE £273,000

LLANMYNECH



- Attractive Detached Bungalow
- Central Village Location
- OFCH & PVC DG
- Reception Hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two Conservatories
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage And Utility
- Ample Car Parking
- EPC Band - D

JJD990

£159,950 or nearest offer considered

GOBOWEN



- Close Care Residential Bungalow
- Minimum Age 55 Years
- Attractive Purpose Built Complex
- CH & DG
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Two Bedrooms
- Rear Enclosed Yard And Garage
- Short Walking Distance From Office
- EPC Band - F

JJD887

GUIDE PRICE £89,950

ELLESMERE - TWO UNITS TO LET



- Two Large Industrial Units
- Each Providing Garage/ Industrial/Storage
- 2 x Two Tonne Cranes
- Excellent Yard Space Providing Parking/Lorry Parking
- OFCH
- Unit F - RENT £19,000 (Floor Area - 6,918 sq. ft)
- Unit G - RENT £23,000 (Floor Area - 8,400 sq. ft)
- EPC Band - E

JJD087

£19,000 & £23,000

PROPERTIES REQUIRED

- All Types Of Properties Required
- Competitive Commission Rates
- Pay Up Front Or On Completion Options Available
- Prominent Office Location
- Full Sales Negotiation And Support
- Contact Us To Arrange No Obligation Visit

JJD000

OSWESTRY (01691) 653437 - (01691) 680212





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2 Dolphin Cottages, Llanymynech

£99,950

Traditional character cottage within the centre of the village. Period features include exposed stone walls, beams, brick fireplace with inset cast iron stove. Lounge, kitchen, landing, bedroom and shower room, small courtyard style front garden, two car parking spaces. Oil central heating and double glazed windows. EPC Rating = E (41)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



16 Jennings Road, Oswestry.

O.I.R.O.

£139,950

Attractive late Victorian terrace property occupying a very popular location overlooking Brynhafof Playing Fields. Comprising, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, rear porch, two bedrooms and bathroom. Gas central heating and some replacement double glazing and garden to rear. Offered for sale with no ongoing chain. EPC Rating = D(64)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



Tontine Inn, Melerley £440,000

Former Public House now affords a large detached residence in pleasant location. Recently up-graded and offers opportunity for B & B. Oil C/H, large sun room, open-plan living/dining room with impressive fireplace. Seven bedrooms all have en-suite bathroom or shower facilities. Detached stores/workshop or garage. EPC Rating: 65(C)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

15 Trehowell Lane, Weston Rhyn

£149,950

Three bedroom semi-detached house. Well proportioned with hall, lounge, dining room and kitchen. Corner plot with enclosed gardens and off road parking. Gas central heating. Close to village school. No chain. EPC Rating = D(62)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



34 Summerfield Close, Oswestry

£137,950

Semi detached house located towards the edge of the town. Two reception rooms, fitted kitchen and cloakroom. Three bedrooms and bathroom. Double glazing and gas-fired central heating. Enclosed rear garden area, off road parking. EPC Rating = 51 (E)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



Building Plots at Belle Vue
Garthmyl £200,000

Full Planning Consent P/2017/0811 for Two Detached Houses together with adjoining amenity land incorporating former Lime Kilns. The site extends to 1.5 Acres (or thereabouts) and is situated midway between Welshpool and Newtown and adjoins the A483 to the front and the canal to the rear.

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

Residential Properties To Let

OSWESTRY

1 Bed 2nd Floor Flat, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets (EPC = 68D) (£395 Dep)	£295 pcm
2 Bedroom Mid Terrace, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets (EPC = 58D) (£520 Dep)	£420 pcm
3 Bed Semi-Det House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC = 55) (£360 Dep)	£460 pcm
2 Bed Mid Terrace House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets (EPC 68D) (£570 Dep)	£470 pcm

GOBOWEN

2 Bedroom 1st/F Flat, Electric Heating, FTE, No Pets, (EPC=73) (£425 deposit)	£325 pcm
2 Bed Mid Terrace, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets (EPC=58D) (£600 Deposit)	£500 pcm
3 Bed Village House, Gas C/H, Parking, FTE, No Pets, (EPC=79) (£695 deposit)	£595 pcm
3 Bed Semi Detached House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets (EPC=40E) (£695 deposit)	£595 pcm

LLANSANTFFRAID

1 Bedroom End Ter Cottage, Oil-Fired C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC = Exempt) (£495 deposit)	£395 pcm
2 Bedroom New Semi-Det House, LPG Gas/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC= 82) (£595 deposit)	£495 pcm
3 Bedroom Semi-Det Bungalow, Oil C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC = 58) (£595 deposit)	£495 pcm
2 Bedroom New Semi-Det House, LPG Gas/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC= 82) (£625 deposit)	£525 pcm

KINNERLEY

2 Bed Detached Bungalow, Oil C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC= 66) (£725 deposit)	£625 pcm
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WEST FELTON

2 Bed End Terrace, Elec Heating, FTE, No Pets (EPC=44E) (£540 Deposit)	£440 pcm
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HALTON, CHIRK

3 Bed Semi detached, Oil C/H, FTE, NO Pets (EPC=33F) (£700 Deposit)	£600 pcm
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Fees: Application Fee: £40 Per Applicant - Lease Fee: £150



50 Highfields, Shrewsbury
£235,000

Well presented and extended three bedroom family home situated in a popular residential district convenient for Shrewsbury Town Centre and local schools. Double glazed, gas fired central heating. EPC Rating = 69(C)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

Aberystwyth 01970 625020
Bishops Castle 01588 638511
Llanidloes 01686 412567

London 0203 368 3986
Lettings Centre 01686 626160
Machynlleth 01654 702472

Newtown 01686 626160
Oswestry 01691 679595
Rhayader 01597 739994

Tywyn 01654 710388
Welshpool 01938 554818
Aberdyfi (window display)



Perfect country retreat has outstanding views

MOELFRE
£595,000

A perfect country retreat, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, Y Dafarn at Moelfre, has four bedrooms and outstanding countryside views.

Overlooking Moelfre Lake, it is for sale through Town & Country at £595,000 with no chain. A highly desirable and attractive four bedroom detached family home, it sits in three acres of fields and gardens. Its accommodation briefly comprises a reception room, a living room, a shower room, a kitchen/breakfast room, a laundry, an orangery, a study, a master bedroom with an en-suite, three further bedrooms and a bathroom. To the outside there are beautiful gardens leading to the lake, tandem and double garages, ample off-road parking, outbuildings and a sun terrace.

Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.



17th century home offers highly flexible accommodation

HOPE
£725,000 <<<

Little Hope, at Hope, Leighton near Welshpool is a 17th century cottage that has undergone a large extension.

Currently run as a bed and breakfast business, its flexible layout means it also provides for two co-habiting families, with separate quarters. In a design which flows with exceptional clarity and focus as a property with an option for two halves, it is for sale through Balfours at £725,000.

Nestled in the hamlet of Hope, Leighton is just two miles from Welshpool, with all necessary services to hand. It is located on the original Offa's Dyke and sits within an acre of garden and grounds in an elevated position on Long Mountain. The result is a magnificent uninterrupted vista across open countryside – a true wow.

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.

SALES

ENQUIRIES PLEASE TELEPHONE 01743 353511

www.balfours.co.uk

Balfours
PROPERTY PROFESSIONALS

UNDER OFFER

Plot 5 Tedsmore Grange, West Felton

Guide Price £455,000

4 bed house with double detached garage set in a unique parkland setting with large garden.

Open-Plan Kitchen/Dining/Family Room, Lounge with Log Burning Stove, Cloaks, Utility, Study, Garden Room, Master Bedroom, and Bedroom 2 with En Suite, 2 Further Double Bedrooms with Fitted Wardrobes, Family Bathroom, Double Detached Garage

UNDER OFFER

Little Ness, Shropshire

Guide Price £345,000

A 3 bedroom semi-detached cottage with separate annex and four car garage in semi-rural location

Side Porch, Hall, Living Room, Kitchen, Dining Room, Study, Conservatory, Ground Floor Bedroom 3, En Suite Shower Room, 2 First Floor Bedrooms, Bathroom, EPC Rating E, Annex with Shower Room, 4 Car Garage, Workshop, Garden Office, Garden Room

UNDER OFFER

Plot 14 Tedsmore Grange, West Felton

Guide Price £305,000

3 bed detached bungalow with single detached garage set in a unique parkland setting with large garden.

Parkland Setting, Country Home, Views, Open-Plan Kitchen, Kitchen / Dining, Lounge with Log Burning Stove, Master Bedroom with En Suite, 2 Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Garage, French Doors to Rear Garden



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Ellesmere, SY12 0EP
ellesmere@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

Wrexham
01978 340000
1 King Street, Wrexham, LL11 1HF
wrexham@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

Llangollen
01978 860346
34 Castle Street, Llangollen, LL20 8RT
llangollen@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

Chirk
01691 772443
2 Church Street, Chirk,
Wrexham, LL14 5HA
chirk@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

NEW




Babbinswood Oswestry £350,000

- spacious 4 bed detached cottage
- Situated in the Hamlet of Babbinswood
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Lounge/Dining Rm
- Kitchen, Utility, Snug & Conservatory
- Two en-suite bedrooms
- 2 further Bedrooms & Family Wet Rm
- Extensive lawned garden with hedge surround
- Patio area & side driveway to Double Garage
- UPVC double glazing throughout

NEW




Lloyd Street Oswestry £159,995

- NO CHAIN - An immaculately presented 3 bedroom mid-terrace property
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room
- Newly fitted Kitchen and Utility Room
- 3 Bedrooms and a newly fitted Bathroom
- Recently re-wired, damp course fitted, decoration, new carpets
- Newly fitted UPVC double glazed windows and doors throughout.
- Gas Fired Central Heating. EPC Rating D (64)

NEW




Carneddau Close Trefonen £380,000

- A substantial Detached 4 Bedroom Family Home with Double Garage
- Situated in the popular village of Trefonen.
- This well presented property enjoys a sought after position
- Entrance Hall, Cloak Room, Lounge, Sun Room, Dining Room
- Study, Kitchen/ Breakfast Room, Utility room, galleryed first floor landing
- Master Bed with Dressing Rm & En-Suite, 3 further Double Beds & Family Bathrm
- Off road parking, double garage and enclosed gardens
- Oil central heating and double glazing.



Building Plot Gobowen £50,000

- An excellent residential development opportunity located in the popular village of Gobowen
- Extending to 0.12 acres (0.04 ha) or thereabouts
- Having outline planning permission for the erection of one detached dwelling.

NEW




Wykey Ruyton XI Towns £499,950

- A 4 Bedroom Nineteen Century Stone Cottage
- Extending to 3 acres (or thereabouts) and a range of useful outbuildings.
- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory
- Utility Room, Study/bedroom and Shower Room
- 4 good sized bedrooms and a Family Bathroom
- Range of building including a Garage, Stable Boxes
- Store shed and Farm Buildings/Dutch Barn (currently not in use)
- The land is split into 4 even sized paddocks




Henlle Gardens Gobowen £220,000

- NO CHAIN - A 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Situated in the popular village of Gobowen
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility & Integral Garage
- Master Bedroom with En-suite, 3 further Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Front & rear gardens and driveway to the front
- Gas C/H and Timber framed single glazing. EPC Rating D (59)




Liverpool Road Oswestry £199,950

- A spacious Edwardian 4 Bedroom End-of-Terrace House
- Situated within an established residential location
- The property has been maintained to a high standard
- Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Living Room
- Kitchen, Utility, Sun Room & ground floor Shower Rm
- 3 Double Bedrooms & 1 Single Bedroom
- Further Sun Room and Family Bathroom
- Enclosed courtyard and garage.
- Gas central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating E (40)



Prince Street Oswestry £90,000

- NO CHAIN AND OFF ROAD PARKING
- A 2 Bedroom Mid-Terrace House in need of modernisation
- Situated within walking distance of the centre of Oswestry
- Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen and Shower Room
- On the first floor there are 2 double





Inglis Road Park Hall £300,000

- A rare opportunity to purchase a spacious Detached 5 Bedroom Family Home
- Situated in the popular hamlet of Park Hall
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen and Utility Room.
- Master Bedroom with En-suite
- 4 further Double Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Well designed landscaped garden offering a wide range of uses
- Double Garage and Driveway.
- Gas Fired Central Heating and UPVC Double Glazing
- EPC Rating C (71)




Whittington Road Gobowen £159,995

- A spacious 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room
- Shower Room and 2 Bedrooms
- An enclosed garden mainly laid to lawn
- Driveway to the side
- Gas Fired Central Heating and UPVC D/G
- EPC Rating D (62)
- NO CHAIN

Llanrhaeadr YM Mochnant £175,000

- A traditional 3 bedroom semi-detached stone cottage
- Spacious living accommodation over three floors comprising
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, and Family Room.
- To the lower level is the Kitchen, Dining Room, Conservatory
- Utility Room and Shower Room.
- 3 bedrooms and a Family Bathroom
- Riverside garden with wooden decking area
- Oil Fired Central heating and partly double glazed windows
- NO CHAIN



Upper Brook Street £104,995

- Well presented 2 bedroom mid terraced property
- Situated on the fringe of the town centre
- Lounge, Kitchen,
- Two Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Rear Garden with Shed
- Gas C/H and D/G. EPC Rating F (28)
- An Ideal First Time or Investment




Cae Gwynn Close Morda £197,000

- An immaculate presented 4 Bedroom Leasehold Family Home
- With outstanding views over open countryside.
- Entrance Porch, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen and Utility
- Master Bedroom with En-suite
- 3 further Bedrooms and Bathroom.
- An enclosed rear garden and driveway to the front.
- Gas Fired Central Heating and UPVC Double Glazing
- EPC Rating C (73)




Morda Road Oswestry £375,000

- A substantial Detached 4 Bedroom Family Home
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Sitting Rm, Kitchen
- Within walking distance of the Market Town of Oswestry
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Music Room, Office, Kitchen/Diner
- Utility, and Dining Room, Master Bedroom with En-suite
- 2nd Bedroom with En-suite, 2 further Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- plot of 1/3 acre with front and rear gardens
- Orchard/vegetable patch, poly-tunnel and patio areas
- Driveway & Double garage with workshop.




Hampton Rise Oswestry £325,000

- A rare opportunity to purchase a 3 Bedroom Detached House
- Situated within a desirable established residential location
- Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Cloakroom
- Dining Room, Lounge, Kitchen/ Breakfast Room & Utility.
- 3 Bedrooms and a Family Bathroom.
- Excellent plot with mature front and rear gardens
- Driveway and single garage
- Oil central heating & Double glazing
- EPC Rating D (60)
- NO CHAIN



Building Plot Chirk Bank £74,995

- A residential plot located in the picturesque village of Chirk Bank
- extending to 0.04 acres or thereabouts
- with outline planning permission for the erection of one detached dwelling
- The site is located within walking distance of the Shropshire Union Canal and the Chirk Aqueduct.






Trefonen Road Morda £270,000

- An immaculately presented 3 bedroom detached family home
- Set on the edge of the popular village of Morda
- Outstanding views to the rear over open countryside.
- The property has been extended and tastefully renovated throughout
- Entrance Hall, Shower Room/Utility, Kitchen/Diner, Lounge
- 3 Bedrooms, family bathroom
- uPVC Double Glazing and Gas C/H.
- EPC Rating C (74)
- Garage and gardens with views to rear.




Whittington Road Gobowen £350,000

- Spacious 4 Bed Detached Family Hse
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Sitting Rm, Kitchen
- Dining Rm, Sun Rm, Utility, Cloaks
- Downstairs Bathroom & Bedroom
- Master Bed with en-suite, 2 further Beds
- Family Bathroom & Storage Room
- Gas C/H & D/G. EPC Rating C (72)
- Large private plot, gated entrance onto drive
- Gravelled parking space & Dble garage
- Enclosed rear garden mainly laid to lawn
- Mature trees/shrub borders, Paved patio

Hampton Road Oswestry £340,000

- A rare opportunity purchase a character 4/5 Bedroom Detached House
- Situated in one of Oswestry's premier locations on the outskirts of the town
- Retaining a host of period features throughout including
- Mosaic tiled flooring, fireplaces and picture rails
- Entrance Lobby, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room and Shower Room
- 4/5 excellent Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Ample off road parking and well maintained rear garden



Regent Court Oswestry £94,995

- Well appointed 1/2 Bed First Floor Apartment
- Purpose built retirement complex
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Area/Bed 2
- Kitchen, Bedroom and Bathroom
- 24 hour resident secretary facility, communal lounge & garden



Stunning farmhouse enjoys superb views

LLANRHAEADR
£400,000

Clynog, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant near Oswestry is a stunning Grade II listed farmhouse in an elevated position.

It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £400,000. The property is situated on the outskirts of the picturesque village of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant close to the confluence of the rivers Tanat and Rhaeadr in the stunning Berwyn Mountains.

The property has a reception hall, music room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen lounge, kitchen, utility room, rear lobby, coal house, gallery landing, a loft storage room, integral garage, gun room, five first floor bedrooms, a family bathroom, five attic rooms, large gardens and an orchard/paddock.

Call Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.



Well located property in hamlet comes with cottage

LLANGEDWYN
£229,950

<<<

Well located in the small hamlet of Pentre Felin in the Tanat Valley, 2 Glanrafon Cottages, Pentre Felin, Llangedwyn, comes with an attached single bedroom cottage subject to a protected tenancy, known as Number 1.

Coming with good sized gardens, a range of detached outbuildings and having scope for improvement, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £229,950.

The main drive approach off the access lane passes by a range of brick/stone and slate roofed detached stores providing ample storage. A small section is included with No1 Glanrafon Cottages, and is therefore subject to the protected tenancy status.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more details and to arrange a viewing.

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<p>Llanfyllin</p> <p>Offers in the region of £122,000</p>	<p>Llanfyllin</p> <p>£125,000</p>	<p>Oswestry</p> <p>£128,950</p>	<p>Llanfyllin</p> <p>Offers in the region of £139,950</p>	<p>Oswestry</p> <p>£154,950</p>	<p>Chirk</p> <p>£157,000</p>	<p>Four Crosses</p> <p>Offers in the region of £170,000</p>
<p>Llanfyllin</p> <p>£199,995</p>	<p>Oswestry</p> <p>£210,000</p>	<p>Oswestry</p> <p>£215,000</p>	<p>Four Crosses</p> <p>£220,000</p>	<p>Llanfyllin</p> <p>£229,950</p>	<p>St Martin</p> <p>£239,950</p>	<p>Llanfyllin</p> <p>£259,950</p>
<p>Llanfyllin</p> <p>Offers in the region of £365,000</p>	<p>Llanfyllin</p> <p>Offers in the region of £380,000</p>	<p>Llanfyllin</p> <p>£429,950</p>	<p>Nantwich</p> <p>£460,000</p>	<p>Rhoswari</p> <p>Offers in the region of £485,000</p>	<p>Llanfyllin</p> <p>£500,000</p>	<p>Maesteg</p> <p>£595,000</p>

2-4 Willow Street, Oswestry, SY11 1AA Visit all our properties at www.townandcountryoswestry.com



Telford's Conservative MP Lucy Allan: 'Capitalism has moved on since the 1980s'

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn: 'The profits of speculators have been put first'

GKN throws up new debate on capitalism

The controversial takeover of GKN has led to soul-searching about the extent to which the state should intervene in the UK's interests

Who would have thought Telford's Tory MP Lucy Allan and Labour's Jeremy Corbyn would agree on an issue that would normally divide them – capitalism.

Enter the highly controversial takeover of GKN by rival British firm Melrose, which has made no secret of the fact it intends to make it more profitable through efficiencies before selling it on.

The future of GKN matters because of what it makes. Telford's 400-strong workforce is part of its wheels and structures arm. But the company's total workforce of almost 60,000 is also involved in other areas of engineering and that includes aerospace, both civil and military.

Its aerospace division is a major supplier to the US military and a key partner on defence programmes such as the F-35 joint strike aircraft in which the UK government has a stake. It makes ice protection systems, protective films and canopies for the Eurofighter Typhoon, which it develops with BAE Systems. GKN's technology is also used on the Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor stealth tactical fighter, and the AgustaWestland AW101 military helicopter.



GKN has a base in Telford

That range of work means British security and defence is very much tied up with the welfare of GKN. And that brings into question whether it should be open to the vulnerabilities that come with a company whose future is at the behest of its shareholders.

The issue has thrown up a debate about capitalism and what that word means when it comes to governing an economy in 2018.

Labour has called Melrose a "short-termist asset-stripper" and condemned the deal for one of Britain's oldest engineering firms.

Jeremy Corbyn accused the government of putting the profits of speculators before the interests of staff. He said: "The Tories have put the interests of City speculators over people's jobs. Labour would have stopped the takeover of GKN and, in government, we'll make our economy work for the many, not the few."

It is the kind of response one would expect from Labour's left wing leader. But look at the parallels with the comments made by Conservative Lucy Allan, responding to the news that Melrose had succeeded in its hostile £8.1 billion takeover. Ms Allan is a former accountant with Price Waterhouse and specialised in the manufacturing sector, with GKN as a client. She said: "We are seeing the future of a great British manufacturing company being decided by short term value investors. These investors, or vulture funds, came on to the GKN share register for a matter of weeks in order to make a quick and significant profit. And it is they who have decided the future of this great British company."

"Capitalism has moved on since the 1980s. Today we care about those with a long-term interest in our manufacturing sector. Today the interests of employees, pensioners, customers, communities, suppliers and innovators come first – and well before the interests of hedge funds making a quick buck. No-one disagrees."

Business Secretary Greg Clark did appear to disagree. He initially seemed to rule out any intervention, saying the Government did not agree with protectionism. The Conservatives are, after all, the party of free enterprise.

But Mr Clark has been under significant pressure, not only from those you would expect to raise concerns like unions, but also from senior members of his own party.

Former defence secretary Michael Heseltine said any other country apart from Britain would block the takeover on national security grounds. And the man currently in the defence post, South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson, is also understood to have 'serious concerns'.

That pressure from within the Tory ranks appears to have had an impact. Mr Clark has softened his views, saying he would now not give a view until he had considered all the evidence.

The minister is aware there is much public affection for a company with a history going back more than 200 years. It has had a hand in making everything from Minis to Spitfires but also produced cannonballs for the Battle of Waterloo.

Melrose has promised to keep the company headquarters in the UK. It says it will also maintain current levels of research and development spending and that it will not sell the aerospace business for five years. There were no such assurances for the wheels and structures section that involves the plant in Hadley, Telford.

Addressing concerns that the takeover had been waved through by speculators, Mr Clark said: "Those shareholders that bought their shares very recently of course bought them from other shareholders who chose not in effect to back the continuing management."

He said ministers would instead seek to "ensure that our business environment is one in which there is competition, in which no incumbent is immune from the challenge of being kept efficient and strategically focused".

The possible implications to British security arising from the sale of GKN are clearly profound. The ongoing battle over whether it is right for Melrose to take over the company before selling it on down the line also has a wider impact in that it calls into question the whole nature of capitalism and where and when the state should intervene.

Is it time to get rid of all our coppers?



Some people are already living a cashless life and use their cards to make payments

DO you reach for the notes and coins in your wallet when popping out to buy a few bits and bobs, or do you simply swipe with your plastic?

Rewind a decade or so, and it might have seemed strange to 'tap and go' instead of using cash – but for many people, that's now a firm everyday habit.

And as technology such as contactless payments continues to grow in popularity, the way we use cash has become a hot topic following the UK Government's spring statement.

Here's a look at what's been said and how our use of cash is changing...

What's happening?

In the recent spring statement, the UK Government launched a consultation into the role of cash and digital payments, which will close on June 5. It wants to hear from



Paying digitally is not an option for some

people, consumer groups, charities and industry bodies.

What does this mean for the future of 1p and 2p coins?

The consultation document does not ask specifically whether the 1p and the 2p should be ditched – but it does ask for opinions on whether the current denominational mix of having eight different coins and four banknotes meets current and future needs, and if not, how it should change.

After this sparked fears that coppers may be in for the chop, the UK Government then signalled that 1p and 2p coins are unlikely to be scrapped, with the consultation simply intended to enable a better understanding of the role of cash.

So why have coppers been put under the spotlight?

It's thought that around six in 10 of the overall amount of 1p and 2p coins are only used once in transactions, before they disappear out of the cash cycle.

By Vicky Shaw

In some cases, this could be because they end up sitting in jam jars and piggy banks, or piled up on sideboards. But in a staggering eight per cent of cases, they are thrown away. To make up for so many disappearing coppers, in the past, this has meant over 500 million 1p and 2p coins have had to be produced each year to replace those rolling off elsewhere.

What about banknotes?

At the other end of the spectrum, the £50 banknote is believed to be rarely used for routine purchases. There is also a perception among some people that high-value £50 notes are associated with criminal activity, the consultation says.

What concerns were raised over the possibility of some denominations disappearing?

Some have raised concerns that if copper coins were ditched, this could be the start of a more dramatic move towards a 'cashless society'.

Paying digitally for goods is not a suitable option for some people. Meanwhile, other groups raised concerns about the potential impact on charities, and there have also been suggestions that consumers could be hit in the wallet if prices were to be simply rounded up in the absence of the 1p coin.

So how is our relationship with cash expected to change beyond the trends we're already seeing?

Recent years have seen a huge surge in the use of contactless payments, when we once may have rummaged around our wallets for some cash.

In fact, we're so used to reaching for plastic nowadays that by the end of this year, debit cards are expected to have overtaken cash as the most frequently-used payment method. Industry body UK Finance says it expects this landmark in our spending habits to happen some time around the last three months of 2018.

Do these trends mean we're eventually going to be a cashless society?

Some people are already living a largely cashless life. In 2016, 2.9 million people used cash once a month or less often. But, at the same time, a similar number were mainly reliant on cash. Around 2.7 million people relied predominantly on cash for their day-to-day spending.

UK Finance thinks predictions of the UK becoming a cashless society are somewhat premature. According to its forecasts, cash will still be the second most frequently-used payment method in the UK in 2026, accounting for a fifth of all payments made in the UK.

So it looks like we may still have use for those piggy banks for a while yet.

What does facebook really know about you?

...And how to take control

It didn't take the Cambridge Analytica scandal to prove that Facebook knows an awful lot about us.

All but the most deluded of users would have been well aware that by signing up with the social media giant, we wave a long goodbye to several elements of our privacy.

It is a rule that goes for everything we put online.

No matter how many times we press delete, you can bet that it is stored somewhere.

However, only recently has the full reach of Facebook's tentacles been revealed.

In simple terms, user data collection is the backbone of Facebook, a message that has become abundantly clear since it emerged that 50 million members' data had been harvested without their knowledge.

The good news is that Facebook gives users the option to see most of the information that's been collected on them since they opened their accounts – it's just that most people don't realise that it's there.

A word of warning: Downloading your archived user data may reveal a laundry list of eyebrow-raising data points, from your personal call records, to text messages, as well as your location each time you log into the site.



How to download your data:

1. Log in to your Facebook account.
2. In the right-hand corner of your News Feed, there should be an arrow that displays a drop-down menu.
3. From there, click on 'Settings' and click on 'Download a copy of your Facebook data' at the bottom of the screen.
4. Click on 'Start My Archive' to get a copy of what you've shared on the site, as well as any personal data that's been collected.

Facebook may tell you to enter your password, as well as your email, so that it can notify you when your archive is ready for download.

It may take several minutes depending on how much data you have and how long you've been a Facebook user.

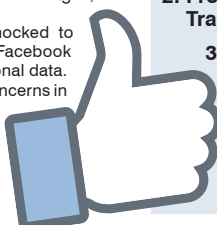
For example, if you've been a Facebook user for more than a decade, it could take up to 10 minutes for the company to send you your data.

Once you receive your files, the information is broken down into sections such as contact info, text messages, Facebook messages, advertisers and more.

Many users have been shocked to learn the lengths to which Facebook has gone to collect their personal data.

Facebook addressed the concerns in a recent statement that some critics called "tin-eared" due to its accusatory nature.

The company also explained that people have to opt-in for data to be collected



from Messenger or Facebook Lite on Android devices.

However, it seems unclear whether users were aware of how their data would be used when they opted in to the feature.

Facebook maintains that it doesn't sell the data, which includes phone contacts and text history, or collect the content of users' data.

Additionally, users can choose to turn off the feature after they've opted in, Facebook said.

Regardless of the company's protestations, many users have expressed fears that their personal privacy is being preyed upon on the website.

The archived files can go back more than a decade and, at times, can even include information users thought they had deleted.

Some users were shocked to see that Facebook had contact information for every person in their address book, while many were also surprised to learn which advertisers Facebook had shared their data with.

In some cases, the list of advertisers exceeded 100 different companies.

How to stop Facebook's advertising army from tracking you online:

1. On an iPhone or iPad, simply go to Settings, tap Privacy and then scroll down to click on Advertising.
2. From there, swipe the 'Limit Ad Tracking' button.
3. If you own an Android phone or tablet, open up Settings, navigate to Accounts and Sync, select Google, then Ads and finally, select 'Opt Out of Interest Based Ads.'

Only recently has the full reach of Facebook's tentacles been revealed

How to opt out of ad tracking on Facebook:

1. Go to Settings, then click on 'Ads' in the menu on the left-hand side of the screen.
2. Under Ad Settings, click on the button that says 'Ads on apps and websites off of the Facebook Companies'.
3. Then scroll down to the bottom and select 'No.'

If you select that option you'll still see ads – but they won't be as relevant to you.

Users can also see what data categories Facebook has collected on the company's website.

A few of the categories include email addresses (even those you've removed), facial recognition data from photos you've been tagged in, a list of IP addresses where you've logged into your Facebook from, as well as your current address and pass addresses.

Some of the more mundane information includes people you've removed as a friend, events you've been invited to, your gender, any posts you've liked, people who've liked your posts and a list of who's poked you or people you've poked, among other things.

Who watches while we're on social media?



Facebook this week apologised for the data breach

IT seems a bit of harmless fun. Answer a few questions about your favourite music or movies, what your favourite drink or meal is, and in return you get a witty assessment of your personality, writes Mark Andrews.

Your friends have all done it, and shared their results with you. Would be rude not to, wouldn't it? Prof Mike Thelwall disagrees.

"I would never answer one of these surveys," says the psychometrics expert from Wolverhampton University, who warns that even the most seemingly innocent questions can be used by data analysts to build up a frighteningly detailed profile of your personality, your interests, your economic circumstances and your political views.

"It might not be very good, the information might be wrong, but it will be right often enough to make it a marketable commodity," he says.

The use of personal data harvested by



Prof Mike Thelwall

social media sites is very much in the spotlight following claims data harvested from a personality test promoted on Facebook was used to glean the personal details of 50 million US citizens, in an attempt to influence the outcome of the 2016 presidential election.

And while you might think joking about your dubious taste in music or hedonistic lifestyle is a bit of harmless banter among friends, the reality is somebody somewhere may well be analysing your answers to sell on to a third party.

Say, for example, your first record was by The Beatles, your favourite film is Bridget Jones' Diary, and you have a weakness for premium champagne? You're probably a well-heeled female baby-boomer with discerning tastes. And if your best-ever holiday was a recent round-the-world cruise, you are probably retired (how else could you take six weeks out?) and likely to leave your house unattended for long periods, which is gold dust for the advertisers of, say, home security products or financial plans.

Report by Mark Andrews

"It's a big problem," says Prof Thelwall. "Companies do keep a lot of data about us. The real problem is when they put together different data sets from various sources."

"For example, you might use the same email address for more than one service, enabling them to build a very detailed picture."

"They can now tell from the words they use whether somebody is male or female, they can tell what sort of job they do, how much money they have, whether they have children, they will look if you have expressed support for a political viewpoint." Most of this is perfectly above board. At the last General Election, the Conservatives, Labour and the Liberal Democrats all made extensive use of social media in their campaigning.

Labour in particular – possibly explaining its better-than-expected electoral performance – cleverly using online surveys to assess the priorities and concerns of individual voters, and then target them with advertising material reflecting their views. Indeed, it could be argued tactics such as this are really just the hi-tech equivalent of the old-school doorstep canvassing, assuming, of course, those who took part in the surveys realised who they were talking to.

But the events of the past weeks have revealed a sinister new twist: the targeting of people who are merely friends of those who take part in the surveys. At the centre of the scandal was an innocent-looking quiz by Cambridge University psychologist Aleksandr Kogan.

The academic had developed a novelty phone app called thisisyourdigitallife, which predicted the personalities of people based on their Facebook profiles. Only about 270,000 people took part in the survey, but Kogan's app also allowed him to access the details of their Facebook "friends", unless their privacy settings specifically prevented this. It is estimated Kogan accessed 50m Facebook users. Kogan's used the data to develop a model predicting personalities based on digital behaviour, which he supplied to British-owned data mining company Cambridge Analytica.

The company was employed by Donald Trump's campaign team. There is no suggestion that President Trump was aware of the activities, but it may well have proved decisive in what was a very tightly fought campaign.

Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg has apologised for the data breach, and said the company had tightened its security procedures some time ago, which meant such actions would not be possible today. While the Cambridge Analytics scandal may in the short-term make people more cautious about sharing personal information, Prof Thelwall believes the data economy is here to stay. His advice? "Be careful what you put online."



Gilbert O'Sullivan is on his way to Shropshire

Gilbert's great and still working hard

Hit maker Gilbert O'Sullivan is back on the road promoting a new album of songs and will be bringing his band to Theatre Severn.

The man behind such classic hits as *Clair*, *Nothing Rhymed* and *Get Down* – Gilbert O'Sullivan – is heading back to the UK for a tour, which takes in Shropshire, and is about to release a brand new recording.

"Yeah, we did a big tour last year which was great," Gilbert tells me at his home in Jersey. "And now we have a new album just finished, so we're going out again."

And he is certainly looking forward to playing live again, writes Martin Hutchinson.

"That's right. In fact, we've only just got back from Australia and we want to keep going."

"It's all very well making records, but the joy of performing is that you get to meet people who give you instant feedback."

He continues: "I take what the people say on

board, I really like that."

Gilbert, born Raymond O'Sullivan in Ireland in 1946, moved with his family to Battersea and then Swindon in 1953.

For a while, he played in a band called Rick's Blues with a fellow art student called Rick Davies, whilst another band had another future star in its line-up.

"Yes, Justin Hayward was in a band called Whispers which was just ahead of us. But our band was really good."

The band even made a record.

"That's right, we went to London and made a record at Tony Pike's studio with two of my songs. We put it on a juke-box in Swindon."

But the band didn't last.

"No, we went our separate ways. I went solo, and Rick formed Supertramp."

For the first half of the seventies, Gilbert was almost ever-present in the UK charts, notching up 14 hits, seven of which went Top Ten and two (*Clair* and *Get Down*) getting all the way to Number One.

His hit *Alone Again (Naturally)* was an American chart-topper, reaching number three in the UK.

There were also a quartet of Top Ten albums, of which *Back To Front* topped the charts in 1972.

Surprisingly, his favourite songs from his repertoire were not hits.

"I do have lots of favourites, but I'd have to pick a couple out."

"Young At Heart with its orchestration and Peggy Lee influence, and *All I Wanted To Say* which is about '9/11'."

And it has to be said that Gilbert has a soft spot for Peggy Lee.

"She's iconic." He says smiling. "You learn from listening to great records and she did some really great ones. I met Peggy when I did a duet with her, and we play it in the live shows with me singing along with Peggy on film."

And what else can we expect to hear in the show?

"There'll be two or three tracks off the new album and of course all the favourites. There'll be nine of us on stage. It's a really good band and we went down well in Australia."

The new album has echoes of the past.

"Yes," Gilbert agrees. "My first album was produced by Glyn Johns, who produced The Who and many others, whilst my new album is produced by his son Ethan."

The writing process comes naturally to Gilbert.

"I've never had writer's

block.

"I love writing and I just sit at my keyboard and write. I started when I was 15 and I still have the excitement and enthusiasm."

The new album will be out in August and has an inventive title. "Yeah," laughs Gilbert.

"They must have been up all night thinking it up. It's called 'Gilbert O'Sullivan'."

"Two singles will be released from it before August and the first one is called *Where Did You Go To*. After the UK dates, Gilbert and his band will be off on their travels again."

"Yes, we've got some European dates and Scandinavia, then later in the year over to Japan. And next year...."

He smiles. "Back to the keyboard."

● Gilbert O'Sullivan will be performing at The Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, on Sunday. Tickets are available from the box office and all the usual agencies.

I've never had writer's block. I just sit at my keyboard and write.

When dream deals become holiday hell



Beware – that bargain holiday deal may not be all it seems

IT feels like you've grabbed a real bargain – a dream summer holiday for a great price.

But every year unsuspecting holidaymakers and travellers are losing millions of pounds after discovering the accommodation or flight they have spent their hard-earned cash on doesn't actually exist.

In 2017, alone British tourists were conned out of a total of £6.7 million with many left stranded with nowhere to stay and their getaway plans in ruins.

And the average amount of money lost by holidaymakers ripped off by booking cons has increased by a quarter in the past year, new figures show.

Victims typically lost £1,500 in 2017, according data released by the City of London Police, which works with ABTA is the UK's

Report by Heather Large

trip to visit loved ones may not actually exist.

"The cost to them is not just financial. This crime causes very real disappointment and emotional distress."

Almost half of all victims said the fraud had a significant impact on their health or financial well-being. Some 575 revealed that the impact was so severe that they had to receive medical treatment or were at risk of bankruptcy.

Pauline Smith, head of fraud reporting centre Action Fraud, said: "Holidays are the perfect chance to relax and unwind, however as this year's statistics show, they are also an opportunity for fraudsters to trick you out of your hard-earned money."

"We know that fraudsters are increasingly using more sophisticated ways to trick their victims, which is why it is important that you do your research when making travel arrangements."

Traditionally, there is a spike in cases during the summer and in December, leading experts to believe fraudsters are targeting peak holiday periods when it is harder to find a bargain.

Tempting

Tony Neate of fraud prevention group Get Safe Online said: "It can be quite tempting to get lured in by the offer of a cut-price flight or a deal on accommodation when you are caught up in the excitement of booking a holiday. Small steps can stop you getting caught out by a holiday scam, such as researching the company you are booking through, especially ones that aren't mainstream operators."

"Check well known review sites too so you can see what previous customers' experiences have been and, where possible, pay by credit card to get extra protection in case anything does go wrong."

Other tips for holidaymakers include checking the paperwork. ABTA says you should study receipts, invoices and terms and conditions, and be very wary of any companies that don't provide any at all.

It's also recommended that customers check the website address is legitimate and has not been altered by slight changes to a domain name. When doing research people shouldn't just rely on one review, it's advised that they do a thorough online search to ensure the company is credible. If they're suspect, other people may well have posted their experiences warning others off.

If you have any concerns you can report suspected scams to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via the website www.action-fraud.police.uk



Victims often don't find out until it's too late

largest travel association, to help holidaymakers avoid falling prey to the fraudsters.

There were 4,700 reported cases last year with many involving cons artists setting up fake websites, hacking into legitimate accounts and posting fake adverts on websites and social media.

The most common cons relate to airline tickets and accommodation bookings. Often customers who believe they are booking a flight, are caught out when they receive a fake ticket or pay for a ticket that never turns up.

Sporting and religious trips are a popular target for conmen due to the limited availability of tickets and subsequent higher prices. Fraudsters may also be targeting individuals travelling home to visit family in time for public or religious holidays.

Travel trade organisation ABTA's chief executive Mark Tanzer said: "ABTA sees at first-hand the damage caused by travel fraudsters with the many devastated customers who contact us for advice after they find out their much anticipated holiday or



O'Sullivan's monster hit Clair



Casualty
8.40pm
Ethan is in danger of crossing a line with Leigh-Anne, while Robyn throws away a present from Glen after he questions whether she is fit to be in work.



Live Snooker: The World Championship
10am
Second-round coverage from the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, featuring the conclusion of one match and the continuation of another.



The Keith & Paddy Picture Show
9.20pm
Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness recreate Pretty Woman, with a little help from Philip Glenister, Amanda Holden, Louise and Tracy-Ann Oberman.



The Restoration Man: Best Builds
7pm
Four memorable industrial conversions from the programme, including an idyllic lochside ice house in Argyll and Bute, and a Victorian pumping station.



Football on 5: The Championship
9pm
Highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Sheffield Wednesday and Hull City v Cardiff City.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
10.00	Saturday Kitchen Live. Presenter Matt Tebbutt is joined by actress Emilia Fox and chefs Rene and Nadine Redzepi, while Olly Smith selects the wines to go with the studio dishes.
11.30	The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. Dave Myers and Si King head to Thailand. (R)
12.00	Football Focus. Dan Walker and guests look ahead to the weekend's matches, which include Manchester United v Arsenal, Southampton v Bournemouth and West Ham United v Manchester City.
1.00	BBC News; Weather.
1.15	Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine presents as the eighth day's play continues at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, including the concluding session of one second-round match.
4.30	Final Score. A round-up of this afternoon's football results.
5.20	A Question of Sport. Guests include Anya Shrubsole and Lee Westwood. (R)
5.50	Celebrity Mastermind. With Mitch Benn, Reeta Chakrabarti, Mark Rhodes and Alistair Brownlee. (R)
6.20	Ready or Not. Crumpet the talking dog surprises a passer-by in Stratford, Quiztina quizzes the good people of Blackpool, and Sam and Mark are back in their Gameshow Lift.
6.50	BBC News.
7.00	Midlands Today; Weather.
7.10	Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a star-studded version of the general knowledge quiz, with contestants including Ann Widdecombe and Tyger Drew-Honey.
8.00	Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles presents the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
8.40	Casualty. Ethan is in danger of crossing a line with Leigh-Anne, while Robyn throws away a present from Glen after he questions whether she is fit to be in work.
9.30	Mrs Brown's Boys. Newlyweds Dermot and Maria argue over whether they should buy their own home, while Grandad hopes to witness his own funeral. (R)
10.00	BBC News; National Lottery Update.
10.20	Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Bournemouth v Southampton at the Vitality Stadium and Swansea City v Chelsea at the Liberty Stadium.
11.45	The Button. Game show set simultaneously in the houses of five UK families, whose members compete to win challenges determined by The Button in the comfort of their living rooms. (R)
12.15	FILM: City Slickers II: The Legend of Curly's Gold (1994). A neurotic New Yorker discovers a treasure map in his dead friend's hat and goes in search of a cache of lost gold. Comedy Western sequel, starring Billy Crystal.
2.00	Weather for the Week Ahead.
2.05	BBC News.

BBC2	
6.15	David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R)
6.40	Naomi's Nightmares of Nature.
7.10	The Pets Factor.
7.30	The Designers.
8.00	Absolute Genius: Monster Builds.
8.30	Beyond Bionic.
9.00	Robot Wars. (R)
10.00	Live Snooker: The World Championship. Day eight gets under way in Sheffield.
12.00	Wanted Down Under. A Paralympic swimmer hopes to persuade her family to move to Australia. (R)
12.45	Flipping Profit. Raising money for Children in Need in St Andrews. (R)
1.30	Britain's Biggest Warship. HMS Queen Elizabeth goes on dangerous sea trials for the first time. (R)
2.30	Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge. Sweetmakers compete for a place in the final. (R)
3.30	Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge. Makers of cooking sauces compete against each other for a place in the final. (R)
4.30	Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.
5.30	Britain in Bloom. (R)
6.00	Antiques Road Trip. Arusha Irvine and Philip Serrell's challenge concludes in Gloucestershire. (R)
7.00	Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the final session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where one second-round match concludes and another gets under way.
8.00	The Forest. Bill Fisher surveys the vast forest and checks the health of the cash crop in a helicopter, with the view allowing him a better chance of spotting any pockets of larch disease.
8.30	Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring and his platoon are ordered to clear the area for a major army exercise – but encounter a problem in the shape of a steam engine blocking the path. (R)
9.00	Civilisations on Your Doorstep. In a companion programme to Civilisations, classicist Mary Beard goes in search of extraordinary works of art from all over the world that can be seen in Britain.
10.00	Performance Live: Akala Presents The Ruins of Empires. A performance piece by hip hop artist and writer Akala, following the 'Knowledge Seeker' through human history in an attempt to discover the cause of the rise and fall of Empires.
10.30	The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story. Andrew watches as the news of the murder of Gianni Versace breaks across the world's media, and he is named publicly as his killer. Last in the series. (R)
11.25	Snooker: The World Championship. Highlights of the concluding session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where one second-round match was set to come to a finish. Presented by Rob Walker.
12.15	Snooker: World Championship Extra.
2.15	Civilisations. (R)
3.15	This is BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Sooty 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.45 Super 4 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.00 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures 7.25 The Tom and Jerry Show 7.30 Teen Titans Go! 7.45 Adventure Time 8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go
8.25	ITV News.
8.30	Zoe Ball on Saturday. With guests Sara Cox, Alex Jones and Matt Richardson.
9.25	James Martin's Saturday Morning. With Linda Barker and Jun Tanaka.
11.20	FILM: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010). A woman struggling to look after her children and the family farm receives a helping hand from the magical nanny. Fantasy comedy, starring Emma Thompson and Maggie Gyllenhaal.
1.20	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
1.30	ITV Racing: Live from Sandown. Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cumani present coverage of today's meetings at Sandown Park, Haydock Park and Leicester, featuring six races in total.
4.00	Tipping Point. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
5.00	The Chase. Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
6.00	ITV News and Weather.
6.15	ITV News Central; Weather.
6.30	Ninja Warrior UK. Celebrity contestants including Harry Judd and Dan Powell test strength, speed and courage in the obstacle-course challenge. With Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara.
7.30	Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule. The comedian hosts the madcap panel show, with Johnny Vegas, Jimmy Osmond, Sue Johnston and Samantha Giles tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion.
8.00	Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host the third heat of the talent search, which sees a wide variety of acts compete for the chance to win a cash prize and a slot at the Royal Variety Performance.
9.20	The Keith & Paddy Picture Show. Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness recreate Pretty Woman, with a little help from Philip Glenister, Amanda Holden, Louise, Tracy-Ann Oberman, George Potts and Ainsley Harriott.
9.50	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.05	FILM: Overboard (1987). A spoilt heiress suffers amnesia after falling off her yacht and is taken in by a carpenter, who claims to be her husband. Comedy, starring Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell.
12.15	Change Your Tune. Baz Ashmawy hosts the musical game show, with this week's bad singers including one contestant who has not told his family he will be appearing on the show. (R)
1.10	Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	Babushka. Game show hosted by Rylan Clark-Neal in which contestants open a set of giant Russian nesting dolls, with some empty and others containing prizes up to £10,000. (R)
3.50	ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4	
6.00	Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. Kirstie Allsopp helps people furnish their homes with furniture sourced for free. (R)
6.15	Motor Sport: Caterham. The opening round of the season from Snetterton.
6.40	The King of Queens. Doug and Carrie reminisce about their first Thanksgiving together. (R)
7.05	The King of Queens. Carrie and Doug babysit. (R)
7.30	Everybody Loves Raymond. Last-ever episode. Ray has a brush with death. (R)
7.55	Everybody Loves Raymond. Pilot episode of the comedy, starring Ray Romano. (R)
8.30	Everybody Loves Raymond. Debra feels neglected. (R)
9.00	Frasier. The brothers learn who has the higher IQ. (R)
9.30	Frasier. The shrink meets another radio psychiatrist. (R)
10.00	The Big Bang Theory. Leonard and Sheldon's flat is burgled. (R)
10.25	The Big Bang Theory. Sheldon gets a job at a diner. (R)
10.55	Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. Coverage from the fourth round of the season.
12.25	F1 Meets Jackie Stewart. An interview with the acclaimed driver. (R)
12.55	Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage from the Baku City Circuit (Start-time 2.00pm).
3.45	Car SOS. The team takes on a 1934 Singer Le Mans two-seater sports car. (R)
4.45	A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. A couple hoping to buy a property in Cyprus. (R)
5.30	The Secret Life of the Zoo. An African painted dog is pregnant with the zoo's first ever litter. (R)
6.30	Channel 4 News.
7.00	The Restoration Man: Best Builds. Four memorable industrial conversions from the programme, including an idyllic lochside ice house in Argyll and Bute, and a Victorian pumping station in Hertfordshire. (R)
8.00	Britain's Most Historic Towns. Alice Roberts tells the story of Tudor England by studying the history of Norwich, learning the harsh reality of religious intolerance and experiencing humiliating Tudor justice.
9.00	FILM: Iron Man (2008). An arms manufacturer invents a hi-tech suit of armour and uses it in the fight against evil around the world. Superhero adventure, starring Robert Downey Jr and Jeff Bridges.
11.25	FILM: The Maze Runner (2014). A teen with no memory in an isolated community must find his way through a deadly labyrinth in search of freedom. Sci-fi adventure, with Dylan O'Brien and Kaya Scodelario.
1.30	Undercover Boss USA. (R)
2.20	Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Sienna receives a terrifying message. (R)
4.35	Come Dine Champion of Champions. Contestants from King's Lynn, Ealing and Cardiff compete. (R)
5.30	Steph and Dom's One Star to Five Star. (R)
5.55	Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Little Princess 6.10 Wissper 6.20 Milkshake! Monkey 6.25 The Secret Life of Puppies 6.30 Mofy 6.35 Simon 6.40 Peppa Pig 6.45 Paw Patrol 7.00 Thomas & Friends 7.15 Fireman Sam 7.30 Olly the Little White Van 7.40 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.10 Paw Patrol 8.25 Nella the Princess Knight 8.40 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.55 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.10 Shimmer and Shine 9.25 Digby Dragon 9.45 Peppa Pig 9.50 Peppa Pig
9.55	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. An army of undead monsters is unleashed on the city. (R)
10.30	The Gadget Show. Jon Bentley tests out indoor security cameras. (R)
11.25	Police Interceptors. Officers come under attack from a gang of violent armed robbers. (R)
12.25	Police Interceptors. Jim leads a raid on a suspected drug dealer. (R)
1.25	Police Interceptors. The police chase a thief driving a souped-up Ford Mondeo. (R)
2.30	Live Aviva Premiership Rugby Union. Gloucester v Bath (Kick-off 3.00pm).
5.15	World's Scariest Animal Attacks. Terrifying encounters caught on camera. (R)
6.00	World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera. A tornado tears a mile-wide path through the city of Moore in Oklahoma, and flash floods in Glenridding in Cumbria push tonnes of rubble into the village. (R)
7.00	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Agents Paul and Steve face a moral dilemma in south London, when they find out the tenant they have been instructed to evict is on his way to a funeral. (R)
8.00	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Agents Stewart and Elmore face the most challenging eviction of their careers, while Brian and Del chase £2,000 worth of debt owed by a business based in Kent. (R)
8.55	5 News Weekend.
9.00	Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Sheffield Wednesday and Hull City v Cardiff City.
10.00	Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Wigan Athletic v AFC Wimbledon and Yeovil Town v Mansfield Town.
10.30	FILM: Dances with Wolves (1990). A soldier alone at a remote outpost is adopted into a Sioux tribe during the American Civil War. Oscar-winning Western, directed by and starring Kevin Costner. With Mary McDonnell.
1.35	SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming.
3.00	FILM: Highlander (1986). Immortal warriors must fight each other in duels to the death through the centuries, until only one survives. Fantasy action adventure, with Christopher Lambert and Sean Connery.
4.45	House Doctor. Home improvement highlights from the series. (R)
5.10	Wildlife SOS. The work of an animal sanctuary. (R)
5.35	House Doctor. (R)

The Ticket

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Antiques Roadshow

8pm
Fiona Bruce hosts the show from Floors Castle in south-east Scotland, and discovers the story of an American heiress who donated a collection of fine art to the estate.



Britain's Biggest Warship

8pm
The crew of HMS Queen Elizabeth completes the sea trials and returns to Portsmouth, while the pilots of the fighter jets go to the US for additional training. Last in the series.



Little Big Shots

7pm
Dawn French meets the UK's youngest town crier, a group of Spanish flamenco dancers, a US string trio and a six-year-old who wants to be a surgeon.



The Crystal Maze

8pm
Richard Ayoade guides a team from a school for deaf people through the four zones, tackling a range of skill, mystery, physical and mental challenges. Last in the series.



Before They Were Stars

8pm
Part two of two. Dale Winton revisits another selection of archive clips that immortalised popular celebrities' first, ill-advised forays into the cut-throat world of showbusiness.

BBC1

- 6.00** **Breakfast.**
7.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Bournemouth v Southampton at the Vitality Stadium and Swansea City v Chelsea at the Liberty Stadium. (R)
9.00 **The Andrew Marr Show.**
10.00 **The Big Questions.** Nicky Campbell presents moral and religious discussions on topical issues from Oasis Academy MediaCity, Salford.
11.00 **Sunday Politics West Midlands.** The week's events at Westminster, presented by Sarah Smith. Including a regional round-up.
12.15 **Rip Off Britain: Food.** The team puts online takeaway services to the test. (R)
1.00 **BBC News: Weather.**
1.15 **Bargain Hunt.** Teams seek items in Brackley, Northamptonshire. (R)
2.00 **The Truth About Obesity.** Chris Bavin seeks out the latest research into the problem, finding out what it means to be obese, what it does to the body and looking at the most up-to-date solutions available. (R)
3.00 **Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall.** Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall is on a mission to challenge food producers, restaurants and government to confront the obesity crisis. (R)
4.00 **Points of View.** Jeremy Vine presents a selection of viewers' comments.
4.15 **Songs of Praise.** Aled Jones hosts the semi-final of the Young Choir of the Year competition.
4.50 **Pointless Celebrities.** With Chris Packham, Tom Heap, Miranda Krestovnikoff and Bill Oddie. (R)
5.35 **BBC News.**
5.50 **Midlands Today: Weather.**
6.00 **The Big Painting Challenge.** Mariella Frostrup and Rev Richard Coles present the semi-final from Glasgow, where the contestants must demonstrate their skill at capturing movement by painting athletes in action.
7.00 **Countryfile.** Matt Baker is in Cornwall, where he meets a blind man walking from Land's End to John o' Groats to raise money for charity, planning to catch the first day of spring at both points.
8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce hosts the show from Floors Castle in south-east Scotland, and discovers the story of an American heiress who donated a collection of fine art to the estate.
9.00 **The Woman in White.** Laura is forced into marriage to Sir Percival in spite of her love for Walter, and soon realises that her fiancé has a dark side.
10.00 **BBC News.**
10.20 **Midlands Today: Weather.**
10.30 **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Manchester United v Arsenal at Old Trafford and West Ham United v Manchester City at the London Stadium.
11.30 **The Women's Football Show.** A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.
12.10 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**
12.15 **BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.05** **Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein.** The horticulturist receives her first bee hive. (R)
6.35 **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don divides ornamental grasses and plants up a colourful alpine trough. (R)
7.35 **Countryfile.** Anita Rani reports on traditional crafts in Norfolk. (R)
8.30 **The Beechgrove Garden.** Jim McCol and Carole Baxter plant a range of potatoes.
9.00 **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series.
10.00 **Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Day nine gets under way in Sheffield.
11.00 **Triathlon World Series: Bermuda.** Highlights of the men's and women's races from Bermuda.
12.15 **MOTD2 Extra.** Mark Chapman presents football discussion.
1.00 **Live Snooker: The World Championship.** The afternoon session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.
6.00 **Super Fast Falcon.** The peregrine falcon is the fastest animal on earth, able to reach speeds of more than 200mph. This documentary reveals the secrets behind this high-speed record-breaker. (R)
7.00 **Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Jason Mohammad introduces coverage of the final session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where two second-round matches continue.
8.00 **Britain's Biggest Warship.** The crew of HMS Queen Elizabeth completes the sea trials and returns to Portsmouth, while the pilots of the fighter jets go to the US for additional training. Last in the series.
9.00 **My Year with the Tribe.** Will makes his final two trips to Korowai territory and attends a traditional festival. On his return to the village, he finds himself in a dangerous situation. Last in the series.
10.00 **Famalam.** Comedy sketch show, featuring more black British history with grime MC and academic Scribbler P.
10.20 **Josh Widdicombe: What Do I Do Now.** A recorded performance of the comedian's show at the Hammersmith Apollo, in which he vents his frustration at everything from an overflowing shower to his contactless debit card. (R)
11.20 **Snooker: The World Championship.** The concluding session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where two second-round matches continued. Presented by Jason Mohammad.
12.10 **Snooker: World Championship Extra.** Jason Mohammad presents extended highlights of matches from the second round on the ninth day of the ranking tournament at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.
2.10 **Sign Zone: Question Time.** Topical debate from Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, chaired by David Dimbleby. (R)
3.10 **Sign Zone: Holby City.** Dominic is confronted by a ghost from the past, and Sacha wants to be the perfect boss when Hanssen returns to work under his leadership. (R)
4.10 **This is BBC2.**

ITV

- 6.00** **CITV: Sooty.** **6.10** **Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids.** **6.20** **Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids.** **6.35** **Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** **6.45** **Super 4.** **6.55** **Signed Stories: Share a Story.** **7.00** **Thunderbirds Are Go.** **7.25** **The Tom and Jerry Show.** **7.30** **Teen Titans Go!** **7.45** **Adventure Time.** **8.00** **The Haunted Hathaways.**
8.25 **ITV News.**
8.30 **Zoe Ball on Sunday.** With guests Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, Rev Richard Coles and David Morgan.
9.25 **Love Your Garden.** (R)
10.00 **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine.
11.00 **Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury.** (R)
11.30 **ITV News and Weather.** Weather.
11.40 **Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec host the third heat of the nationwide talent search. (R)
12.55 **Britain's Got More Talent.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the companion show to the talent competition. (R)
1.55 **Britain's Brightest Family.** Two families compete in the final. Last in the series. (R)
2.25 **Ninja Warrior UK.** With celebrity contestants Harry Judd and Dan Powell. (R)
3.30 **Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs - India.** People who dedicate their lives to helping dogs in Delhi. (R)
4.00 **The Real Camilla: HRH the Duchess of Cornwall.** A year in the life of the Duchess of Cornwall. (R)
5.00 **The Chase: Celebrity Special.** With Shane Williams, Sair Khan, Milton Jones and Tanni Grey-Thompson. (R)
6.00 **Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** The comedian hosts the madcap panel show, with Johnny Vegas, Jimmy Osmond, Sue Johnston and Samantha Giles tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion. (R)
6.30 **ITV News and Weather.**
6.45 **ITV News Central.** Weather.
7.00 **Little Big Shots.** Dawn French meets the UK's youngest town crier, a group of Spanish flamenco dancers, a US string trio and a six-year-old who wants to be a surgeon.
8.00 **The Durrells.** Henry Miller comes to stay with the family, and stirs up tension among Louisa and her children with his strange behaviour and the controversial content of his books.
9.00 **Invitation to a Royal Wedding.** Trevor McDonald and Julie Etchingham present a look ahead to the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, and go behind the scenes on previous royal ceremonies.
10.00 **ITV News and Weather.** Weather.
10.20 **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R)
11.15 **Last Laugh in Vegas.** The nine British entertainers have spent more than a week rehearsing for their dream gig, but they question whether the show should go on after a tragedy hits Las Vegas. (R)
12.10 **This Time Next Year.** (R)
1.00 **Jackpot247.**
3.00 **Motorsport UK.**
3.50 **Take on the Twisters.** (R)
4.40 **ITV Nightscreen.**
5.05 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

Channel 4

- 6.05** **The King of Queens.** Arthur works in the senior citizens programme. (R)
6.30 **The King of Queens.** (R)
6.55 **Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship.** The World RX of Catalunya-Barcelona.
7.55 **Eat the Week.** Simon Rimmer comes up with healthy recipes for two sporty children. (R)
9.00 **Sunday Brunch.** With guests Jamie Oliver, Tom Allen, Rochelle Humes and OT Fagbenle.
12.00 **Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Live Build Up.** A preview of the fourth round of the season.
12.40 **Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Live.** Steve Jones is joined by David Coulthard and Eddie Jordan to present coverage of the fourth round of the season (Start-time 1.10pm), held at the Baku City Circuit.
3.55 **Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Live Reaction.** A review of the fourth round of the season.
4.30 **Car SOS.** Tim Shaw and Fuzz Townsend head to Plymouth to rescue a Mazda MX5. (R)
5.30 **Grand Designs.** Building a home on a minuscule 38 square metre plot in London. (R)
6.30 **Channel 4 News.**
7.00 **Escape to the Chateau.** Dick Strawbridge and Angel Adoree continue their renovation of a French chateau. The couple arrange to host weddings to pay for the work, and invest in solar power. (R)
8.00 **The Crystal Maze.** Richard Ayoade guides a team from a school for deaf people through the four zones, tackling a range of skill, mystery, physical and mental challenges. Last in the series.
9.00 **Homeland.** Saul's mission is given the greenlight. The clock is ticking on the Keane administration.
10.05 **Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)
11.00 **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson are joined by David Baddiel and Trevor Noah. Joey Essex is in Dictionary Corner and Alex Horne and the Home Section help Rachel Riley. (R)
12.00 **FILM: The Voices (2014).** An office worker who believes his pets can talk uses their advice to plot revenge on the woman who refused to date him. Comedy crime thriller, with Ryan Reynolds and Gemma Arterton.
2.00 **FILM: Happy Bhag Jayegi (2016).** Premiere. A woman flees from an arranged marriage to elope with her boyfriend, only to end up stranded in Pakistan. Romantic comedy, starring Diana Penty and Abhay Deol.
4.10 **Come Dine Champion of Champions.** Business manager Emma Revis, artist and mobile creperie owner Glenn Davison and choreographer Simon Green battle it out for a place in the final. (R)
5.05 **Building the Dream.** Charlie Luxton heads to the Isle of Wight to help mother and daughter Tracy and Mimi design and build a stylish contemporary house, but the budget is under pressure from day one. (R)

Channel 5

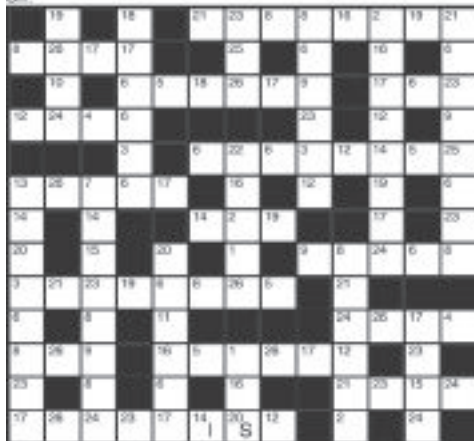
- 6.00** **Milkshake!** Little Princess **6.10** Wissper **6.20** Milkshake! Monkey **6.25** The Secret Life of Puppies **6.30** Mofy **6.35** Simon **6.40** Peppa Pig **6.45** Paw Patrol **7.00** Thomas & Friends **7.10** Fireman Sam **7.20** Oly the Little White Van **7.30** Blaze and the Monster Machines **7.55** Paw Patrol **8.10** Nella the Princess Knight **8.30** Noddy: Toyland Detective **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.55** Shimmer and Shine **9.10** Digby Dragon **9.25** Peppa Pig **9.35** Peppa Pig
9.40 **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** The gang faces a new enemy. (R)
10.15 **Football on 5: The Championship.** Highlights of Wolverhampton Wanderers v Sheffield Wednesday. (R)
11.10 **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Action from Wigan Athletic v AFC Wimbledon. (R)
11.40 **FIA Formula E.** The Paris ePrix.
12.45 **Police Interceptors.** The work of Cheshire's high-speed police interception unit. (R)
1.40 **FILM: Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole (2010).** Animated fantasy, with the voice of Jim Sturgess.
3.30 **FILM: Zookeeper (2011).** Comedy, starring Kevin James.
4.30 **5 News Update.**
4.35 **FILM: Zookeeper (2011).** Concluded.
5.25 **FILM: Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (1994).** Comedy, starring Jim Carrey.
7.00 **Biggest Dog in the World.** Documentary following three households with Great Danes, looking at the pros and cons of owning massive dogs, including crippling costs and extreme domestic destruction. (R)
8.00 **Before They Were Stars.** Part two of two. Dale Winton revisits another selection of archive clips that immortalised popular celebrities' first, ill-advised forays into the cut-throat world of showbusiness. (R)
8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
9.00 **Most Shocking Talent Show Moments Ever!** Memorable moments from TV talent shows, featuring contributions from stars including Louis Walsh, Len Goodman, Paul Potts, Sinitta, Eddie Edwards, Jordan Banjo and Perri Kiely.
12.00 **Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind-Ups.** Joe Pasquale showcases one last selection of pranks, with laughs coming at the expense of Justin Timberlake and Louis Walsh, among others. (R)
1.00 **SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.10 **GPs: Behind Closed Doors.** A patient feeling unwell after bumping her head visits the surgery, and doctors meet a first-time mother who had to be induced early and is still traumatised by the events. (R)
4.00 **World's Most Pampered Pets.** The most luxuriously kept pets in the world, including Californian lizards treated as house guests, Australian ducks dressed for the catwalk and Barack Obama's dog Bo. (R)
4.45 **House Doctor.** Compilation of interior design tips from the series, revealing how Ann Maurice has helped homeowners sell their properties. (R)
5.10 **Wildlife SOS.** The work of an animal sanctuary. (R)

The
Ticket

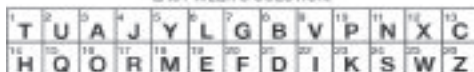
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- They should show some interest at the way clerics are dressed (11)
- What the gravestone reveals will produce a tear (5)
- Cutting an earth defence needs an industrious worker (8)
- He's one of a pair in very case (5)
- He's unlikely to be in a class of his own (7)
- One going in the vessel for a trip (6)
- Sheep doctor going round old Ireland (6)
- Asian country surrounding an American state (7)
- Part of the reason I contrive a kind of boom (5)
- Fractionally, it's on top (5)
- The water regulator made a light touch (5)
- White cat is only an ounce (4,7)

Down

- A rest in the afternoon, apparently (2)
- One who finds things of consuming interest (5)
- You'll find me involved with this as a doctrine (6)
- Omit what was once indicated in a crossword, one hears! (7)
- Somewhat get is PRADA as a serious actor (8)
- Outstanding pieces for chameleons (11)
- This may well detect a change of heart (11)
- Golfer who makes regular deliveries! (8)
- Bird pole with line underneath (7)
- Action that changes the tablet (6)
- Remove the covering from a left (5)
- Sailor found lying on the road (5)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Concealment (11)
- Sheep (3)
- Wannabes (6)
- Foe (5)
- Cost (7)
- Accompany (8)
- Bury (6)
- Momentum (7)
- Teacher (5)
- Worldwide (8)
- Choose (2)
- Unceasingly (11)

Down

- Employ (3)
- Dwarf (5)
- Effaced (8)
- What (7)
- Thorough (3-3-3)
- Hemul (11)
- Rebound (11)
- Exclusion (9)
- Alleviate (7)
- Against (6)
- Claim (5)
- Lubricate (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

1	4	5	0	8	3	7	0	2
9	7	3	1	0	2	8	4	6
6	2	8	4	7	8	1	0	3
3	8	2	6	9	7	4	1	5
7	3	1	5	8	4	6	2	5
8	6	4	2	1	5	9	0	7
2	5	8	0	3	8	5	7	4
4	3	6	7	4	8	2	8	1
4	5	7	5	2	1	5	6	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Mice; 3 Headcap; 5 Release; 10 Amber; 11 Ocean voyage; 13 Lullaby; 15 Status; 17 Maiden voyage; 20 Limbo; 21 Reddies; 22 Tenderfoot; 25 Left.
Down: 1 Mole; 2 Solver; 4 Asset; 5 Thought; 6 Calaveras; 7 Part; 8 Standard row; 12 Rowant; 14 Boatman; 16 Endless; 18 Asks; 19 Rat.
QUICK - Across: 1 Envy; 3 Filion; 6 Fungoid; 10 Upset; 11 Complication; 13 Climax; 15 Whine; 17 Appreciation; 20 About; 21 Unwilling; 22 Squalor; 23 Dye. Down: 1 Efficiency; 2 Venice; 4 Redoubt; 5 Courtiers; 6 In short; 7 Matter; 8 Collapsing; 12 Kneecap; 14 Improver; 16 Actual; 18 Jolly; 19 Pass.

Quiz

- Which London boxer died after a title fight in 1994?
- Which coin was first minted in Florence in 1252?
- What is the official residence of the presidents of France?
- Of what is copra the dried kernel?
- Who, as minister of health, inaugurated the NHS?
- At which racetrack were Ayrton Senna and

- Roland Ratzenberger killed?
- Which club overthrew the Girondins in the French Revolution?
- What do we call the large wild cat Acinonyx jubatus?
- How is Jerusalem's Western Wall also known?
- Which order of knighthood's motto is Hori solit qui mal y pense?

Last week's solutions:

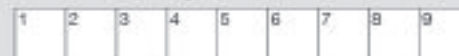
Quiz: 1 Evita Peron; 2 Thrush; 3 The Rockies and the Appalachians; 4 78; 5 Oklahoma; 6 Kew Gardens; 7 Babylonian; 8 Gannet; 9 Agronomy; 10 USA.
Nine: NIGHTMARE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

465378
12678
3295

gives a Russian leader,
gives a second Russian leader,
gives a Russian river.



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Trends in UK used car market

Mycarcheck.com's valuation experts reveal significant trends in the UK used vehicle market and choose a car and bike of the month.

Valuation services team manager at mycarcheck.com, Jon Wheeler, said: "If you're in the market for a family hatch that's practical, affordable and well-equipped, you should certainly consider the Kia Cee'd."

"Boasting strong residual values, good standard equipment and Kia's 7-year warranty, the Cee'd stacks up as a good used buy. The model walk is easy to understand, starting with the Cee'd 1 and going up to the Cee'd 4. Then there's the range topping GT-Line."

"Our pick for lower mileage users would be the 1.0 T-GDI petrol engine. Higher mileage users may well find the 1.6 CRDi diesel unit a better choice – it is refined, delivers good performance and should return over 70mpg."

As to market trends, Wheeler said: "New car registrations have continued to fall compared to last year, with the private sector taking the worst hit throughout March. This has also put pressure on dealer networks as good used stock is challenging to get hold of. Demand remains high across the used arena, but with this comes strengthening prices. Notably, despite the drop in new prices, diesel is still a staple used choice."

On the motorbike, scooter and moped sector, mycarcheck.com's Stuart Wilson said: "If you're in the market for a comfortable, reliable and well-equipped tourer, the Triumph Tiger 800 XR is an attractive option. With ABS, cruise control, adjustable



Kia's Cee'd stacks up well as a used car buy

seat and screen, gear mechanics from the Daytona 675R and a 19-litre tank (enabling you to rack up 270 miles between pit stops), you get a lot of bike for your money."

"Expect to pay £7,000 for an average mileage example and, as always, check the history before you buy."

As to market trends, Wilson said: "Spring has finally sprung and will hopefully spark some significant movements in the two-wheel market. Overall, motorcycle registrations are 7.3 per cent up and scooter registrations are 0.5 per cent up compared to last year. The 126cc-650cc sector has more than weathered the extended winter, with registrations up 21.4 per cent."

"On the face of it, the 30.9 per cent

drop in moped registrations looks bad, but the influx of preregistered 50cc Euro3 examples in late 2017 had a massive impact. Over the next month, some good quality machines returning from PCP deals should provide a welcome further boost."

With information from the police, DVLA, insurers and finance houses, My Car Check holds comprehensive data on every vehicle on UK roads – things that buyers should be aware of before making an offer.

CDL Vehicle Information Services, which owns My Car Check, performs over a million look-ups a day for companies including AutoExpress, CompareTheMarket, Go-Compare, Moneysupermarket, Swiftcover and Tesco.

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13	NISSAN QASHQAI 360 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, BLACK, SERVICE HISTORY, 62K	£9,500
15	RENAULT CLIO HATCHBACK TCE 90 DYNAMIQUE GT LINE SPORT KIT NAV 5 DOOR, BLACK, SERVICE HISTORY, £20 ROAD TAX, 26K	£8,195
14	VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2 MATCH EDITION 3 DOOR, BRIGHT RED, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, CRUISE CONTROL, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, 45K	£6,795
62	KIA SOUL CRDI, SILVER, AIR CONDITIONING, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY, 32K	£6,695
11	VOLKSWAGEN POLO SEL TDI 900 1.6 5 DOOR, SILVER, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY, £30 ROAD TAX, 58K	£6,495
13	RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION PLUS 16V 5 DOOR, BLACK, SERVICE HISTORY, 42K	£5,999
63	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXI 5 DOOR, GREY, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY, 34K	£5,995
15	PEUGEOT 108 ACTIVE, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER, £0 ROAD TAX, 27K	£5,995
61	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE 1.7 CDTI 7 SEATS, SILVER, HEATED LEATHER SEATS, CLIMATE CONTROL, SERVICE HISTORY, 67K	£5,495
09	FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 1.6 5 DOOR, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER, 53K	£5,184
62	FORD KA ZETEC 1.2, SILVER, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CONDITIONING, £30 ROAD TAX, 10K	£4,995
10	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRI 5 DOOR, SILVER, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, 58K	£4,995
61	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI VTR+, 5 DOOR, METALLIC BLUE, AIR CONDITIONING, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY	£4,995
14	FORD KA EDGE, WHITE, £30 ROAD TAX, 33K	£4,895
13	FIAT PUNTO JET BLACK, BLACK, 3 DOOR, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CONDITIONING, 34K	£4,895
10	FORD FIESTA TITANIUM, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY, 60K	£4,695
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10	RENAULT CLIO 1.6 INITIALE T-TOM, AUTOMATIC MET. RED, LEATHER SEATS, AIR CONDITIONING, SERVICE HISTORY, 46K	£4,495
08	FORD FOCUS ZETEC, BLUE, SERVICE HISTORY, 75K	£3,795
59	RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 1.2 TCE 3 DOOR, RED, ALLOY WHEELS, 46K	£3,795
11	CITROEN C1 VTR+, WHITE, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., REMOTE CENTRAL LOCKING, SERVICE HISTORY, £20 ROAD TAX, 28K	£3,695
10	TOYOTA AYGO BLACK VVT-1, 1LT., 5 DOOR, BLACK, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, £20 ROAD TAX, 48K SOLD	
59	VAUXHALL CORSA SXI 3 DOOR, SILVER, ALLOYS, AIR CON., 51K	£3,495
06	AUDI A4 1.8 TURBO TSE, AUTOMATIC, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, 109K	£3,250
56	TOYOTA AYGO 5 DOOR, METALLIC BLUE, 68K	£1,995
06	MAZDA 3, 1.6 SPECIAL EDITION 5 DOOR, 83K	£1,995

55	VAUXHALL TIGRA EXCLUSIVE HARD TOP CONVERTABLE, BLACK, HEATED LEATHER SEATS, ALLOYS, 60K	£1,895
05	CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 LX, 47K	£1,895
07	FOCUS 1.6 GHIA, GREY, ALLOY WHEEL, SERVICE HISTORY, 121K	£1,495
03	PEUGEOT 206 QUIKSILVER HDI, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, 107K SOLD	

DUE IN

14	FORD TRANSIT 350 DRW CREW CAB TIPPER	DUE IN
11	RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE TOMTOM, SILVER	DUE IN

COMMERCIALS PLUS VAT

15	TOYOTA HI-LUX 2.5D-4D 4WD ACTIVE, DOUBLE CAB, WHITE, AIR CON., ONE OWNER, 19K	£14,475
66	FORD TRANSIT 350 L3 H3, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ONE OWNER, 21K	£13,995
64	FORD TRANSIT CUSTOM 290 TREND E-TEC, WHITE, FRONT AND REAR PARKING SENSORS COLOUR CODED FRONT BUMPERS CRUISE CONTROL, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER, 20K	£11,495
65	TRANSIT CUSTOM 290, WHITE, ONE OWNER, REGISTERED 2016, SERVICE HIST, 6 SPEED, 30K	£10,695
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61	FORD TRANSIT 280 SWB SEMI HIGH TOP, WHITE, SERVICE HISTORY, 49K	£6,995
64	PEUGEOT EXPERT SWB, TWIN SIDE DOORS, WHITE, SERVICE HISTORY, 52K	£6,995
15	CITROEN BERLINGO, WHITE, 3 SEATS, SIDE DOOR, AIR CON., PARKING SENSORS, SERVICE HISTORY, 38K	£6,795
12	FORD TRANSIT 350 LWB HIGH TOP RWD, 6 SPEED, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, 79K	£6,495
60	FORD TRANSIT 300S, WHITE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, ROOF RACK, RACKING IN REAR, DIRECT FROM BT, SERVICE HISTORY, 34K	£6,495
62	VOLKSWAGEN CADDY C20 PLUS TDI, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, SERVICE HISTORY, 61K	£5,650
15	RENAULT KANGOO ML19 1.5 DCI, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ONE OWNER, 56K	£4,995
14	FIAT DOBLO CARGO 1.3 JTD 90 BHP, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, 59K	£4,495

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04	JAGUAR X TYPE V6 SE AUTO, Blue.....	£1,595
52	JAGUAR S TYPE AUTO Leather, Low Miles.....	£3,995
V	JAGUAR XK8 Low Mileage, Silver, MUST BE SEEN	POA

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63	PEUGEOT 208 ACTIVE Diesel, Blue, 30k	£6,495
60	VW POLO 1.4, Silver, 50k	£4,495
08	VW JETTA SE TDI 140, Black Service History	£3,295
09	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SPORT DESIGN, 3 door, Silver.....	£2,995
08	FIAT GRANDE PUNTO SPORTING T-J, Blue, Must Be Seen	£2,795
07	BMW 520D SE, high mileage but extensive history, looks great.....	SOLD
56	VAUXHALL VECTRA Exclusive 1.8 Red Metallic	£2,895
56	TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT 1.3, Silver, Beautiful Condition, MP3 Player	£2,875
08	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTI BREEZE, Red	£2,595
54	FORD FIESTA FLAME 5-dr, Silver	£2,495
57	VAUXHALL VECTRA, Diesel, Silver	£1,695
60	VW GOLF 1.4 5Dr, Black, Alloys	SOLD
07	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 3DR, Silver	£1,695
57	VAUXHALL VECTRA SRI, diesel	£1,495

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58	LAND ROVER FREELANDER HSE, Diesel	£7,995
06	JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 3.0TD Auto, Silver, leather	SOLD
11	PEUGEOT PARTNER, White, Silver	£4,575
02	JEEP CHEROKEE 3.7 AUTO, Limited Edition, Low Miles for year	£1,450
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Diesel Selection

15 (65)	NISSAN JUKE 1.5DCI Acenta 16,000 Miles, Grey	£10,450
15 (15)	MERCEDES A180 1.5 AMG Sport, In white	DUE IN
15 (15)	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 CDTI TECH Line White, 11,000 miles only	£8,995
15 (15)	KIA VENGA 2, 1.4 CRDi, only 4,000 miles	£9,450
14 (64)	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Acenta Ink Blue	£11,950
14 (14)	KIA CEED 2.1.6 CRDi Track Red	£9,650
14 (14)	FORD MONDEO 1.6CDTi GRAPHITE Silver	£9,850
14 (63)	RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE M-NAV Flame Red	£8,975
13 (63)	VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTI Exclusive Grey	£11,850
13 (13)	NISSAN JUKE 1.5DCI Acenta White	£7,650
13 (13)	NISSAN JUKE 1.5DCI Acenta PREMIUM White	DUE IN
12 (62)	PEUGEOT 5008 1.6 HDI ACTIVE Silver	£8,950
12 (12)	SEAT IBIZA 1.2 TDI SE ECOMOTIVE Grey	£7,250
11 (11)	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Acenta Force Red	£8,950
10 (10)	BMW 118D SPORT, 5 door, white	DUE IN
10 (10)	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI EXPRESSION Silver	£6,850
10 (10)	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI EXPRESSION Pearl Black	£6,850
10 (60)	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTI SRI Black	£4,850
09 (59)	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Acenta Cappuccino	£6,850
09 (09)	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.7 CDTI DESIGN 5-dr. Silver	£4,650
08 (58)	VOLKSWAGEN JETTA 2.0 TDI SPORT Lovely Condition, Blue	£6,850
05 (05)	SKODA OCTAVIA 1.9 TDI CLASSIC Silver	£3,850
05 (05)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTI DESIGN Black	£3,250

Petrol Selection

17 (66)	PEUGEOT 208 1.2 Active, 9,000 miles,	£9,450
16 (66)	KIA PICANTO 1.0L Air, 5 door, Blaze Red,	£7,850
14 (14)	MINI ONE COUNTRYMAN (Pepper Pack) Light White	£10,450
13 (63)	KIA PICANTO 1L, Air, in silver, Low Miles	DUE IN
13 (63)	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 SE Blue	£8,950

12 (12)	KIA CEED 2.1.6 Planet Blue.....	£6,950
11 (61)	CITROEN DS3 1.6 SPORT Grey	£5,850
11 (11)	MINI One 1.6, 3 Door, Pepper White,	DUE IN
11 (11)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 SRI Star Silver	£4,650
10 (60)	NISSAN JUKE 1.6 Acenta Sport. Blade Silver	£6,950
10 (10)	KIA PICANTO 1.1 STRIKE, Cool Blue, 20,000 miles	£3,850
10 (10)	RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE Tom Tom, 6,000 miles, Blue	£8,450
10 (10)	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 SRI 5dr, 13,000 miles, Black	£8,950
10 (10)	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SSRI 5dr, 9,000 miles, Grey	£8,950
09 (09)	MINI COOPER CONVERTIBLE Chilli pack, Horizon Blue	£9,650
08 (08)	MAZDA MX-5 2.0 NISKO ROADSTER Silver	£7,850
07 (57)	MAZDA MX-5 1.8i CONVERTIBLE Galaxy Grey	£5,650
07 (07)	PEUGEOT 207 CC Sport Convertible Red	£2,995
06 (56)	PEUGEOT 207 SE 16v 5-dr. Silver Grey, 9,000 miles.....	£5,650
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Automatics

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66 Reg	FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 2.0T EcoBoost ST-3 5dr STEALTH GREY.....		£20,789
15 Reg	FORD KA HATCHBACK 1.2 Zetec 3dr (Start Stop) BLUE.....		£5,695
64 Reg	FORD KUGA ESTATE 1.5 EcoBoost Titanium X 5dr 2WD BLACK.....		£15,695
64 Reg	FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCi 163 Titanium 5dr Powershift 4x4 WHITE.....	£13,995	£12,995
64 Reg	FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCi 180 Titanium 5dr Powershift 4x4 BLACK.....		£15,695
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15 Reg	FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCi Titanium 5dr 4x4 WHITE.....	£13,495	£12,995
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64 Reg	FORD B-MAX DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCi Titanium X 5dr.....	£8,995	
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67 Reg	FORD ECOSPORT HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line 5dr.....	£17,495	
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66 Reg	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium X 5dr Powershift.....	£13,495	
66 Reg	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line 5dr.....	£11,995	
65 Reg	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium 5dr.....	£9,995	
16 Reg	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium 5dr.....	£10,995	
64 Reg	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Titanium X 5dr.....	£9,695	
13 Reg	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr.....	£7,995	
15 Reg	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr.....	£9,795	
65 Reg	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 3dr.....	£8,695	
16 Reg	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 3dr.....	£8,995	
17 Reg	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 5dr.....	£11,695	
64 Reg	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 EcoBoost 140 Zetec S Red 3dr.....	£9,995	
16 Reg	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Zetec S 3dr.....	£9,995	
63 Reg	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 Zetec 5dr.....	£7,995	
65 Reg	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 82 Zetec 5dr.....	£8,495	
16 Reg	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 82 Zetec 5dr.....	£9,295	
17 Reg	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 82 Zetec 5dr.....	£9,995	
9 Reg	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.4 Zetec 5dr.....	£4,995	
61 Reg	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.6 [134] S1600 3dr.....	£7,495	
13 Reg	FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCi Titanium X 3dr.....	£8,695	
17 Reg	FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.6 EcoBoost ST-3 3dr.....	£14,995	
67 Reg	FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line 5dr Auto.....	£17,995	
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MOTORING

ROAD TEST



Rugged crossover estate given a quality upgrade

By Anthony Martyn

Host to a series of updates, both exterior and interior, Outback is a rugged crossover estate, redesigned to raise cabin quality and refine the model's plethora of safety offerings.

Boasting a significant upgrade in technology and trim, the changes come at no extra costs for customers as pricing remains the same as the previous model.

Among the most significant changes to the exterior is the redesigned front grille, bumper, door mirrors and headlights.

The hexagonal grille redesign showcases a sharper, more defined shape and incorporates the distinctive Subaru wing design, which draws parallels to the iconic horizontally opposed Boxer engine.

An addition to both the exterior design and the safety suite is a new front view camera, which has been positioned below the marques six-star badge. Placed on the front grille, the front view camera can monitor a 180°-degree area in front of the car that would normally be in the driver's blind spot.

These images, as well as visible guidelines, are displayed on the touchscreen to aide drivers in gauging potential hazards in front of the car and improve overall manoeuvring.

Allowing for increased all-round visibility, the 2018 Outback SUV is fitted with an additional side view camera mounted at the base of the passenger door mirror. Displaying the area diagonally in front of the passenger side of the Outback, the resulting imaging allows drivers to navigate through narrow spaces with greater ease.

A welcome addition to the Outback is the inclusion of Lane Keep Assist, which completes the EyeSight driver assistance safety technology suite – included as standard on all 2018 Outback models. Lane Keep Assist offers gentle steering control if the vehicle is about to deviate from its lane at approximately 40mph or above.

Subaru's EyeSight driver assist



The front grille, bumper, door mirrors and headlights have been redesigned

technology suite includes: Adaptive Cruise Control, Lead Vehicle Start Alert, Lane Sway and Departure Warning, Lane Keep Assist, Pre-collision Braking System and Pre-collision Throttle Management. Steering Responsive Headlights are also new, improving driver safety and increasing visibility at night. The headlight beams mirror the driver's steering input to illuminate corners when turning.

Interior changes include a subtle redesign. New decorative gloss black panels and silver surrounds create a consistent and sophisticated look, whilst the touchscreen size has been increased from 7" to a new 8" multifunction colour touchscreen for the SE Premium model, which is also compatible with both Apple CarPlay™ & Android Auto™ and DAB radio functionality.

The SE trim level also receives a refresh with an updated 6.5" multifunction colour touchscreen and

fabric seating trim with heated front seats.

Outback is powered by a naturally-aspirated 2.5-litre 'FB25' petrol unit.

Due to the size and shape of Subaru's Boxer engine, it is installed lower down and further back than a conventional engine for a lower centre of gravity and transitions beneath the passenger compartment in the event of a collision, providing an added level of safety for occupants within the vehicle.

The Boxer engine – with its unique 'punch-counterpunch' rotational cycle – offers smoothness, low vibration and noise, plus excellent accelerator response. The 2.5L engine produces 175PS at 5,800rpm and 235Nm torque at 4,000 rpm.

The engine returns fuel economy of 38.7mpg on the combined cycle and CO2 emissions of 166g/km. Prices for the 2018 Subaru Outback start from £29,995 for the SE Model and £33,010 for the SE Premium.

English Rugby Clubs

Midlands Premier						
	P	W	D	L	F	A P
Birmingham & Solihull	25	23	0	2	10113	36113
Peterborough Lions	26	21	0	5	894	500102
Newport (Salop)	25	19	0	6	999	456 97
Souththorpe	26	18	1	7	724	523 89
Brighthelm	26	15	0	11	722	506 77
Doncaster Phoenix	26	14	0	12	641	752 35
Sandbach	26	14	0	12	757	550 73
Derby	26	12	0	14	715	697 69
Nuneaton	26	11	1	14	685	645 63
Bourneville	26	11	0	15	713	862 60
Lichfield	26	7	0	19	557	828 48
Newbold on Avon	26	8	0	18	523	748 43
Longton	26	6	0	20	492	100238
Old Halesonians	26	1	0	25	288	152810

Midland 1 West						
	P	W	D	L	F	A P
Burton	25	23	0	2	11412	292116
Dudley Kingswinford	24	21	0	3	873	385106
Bromsgrove	26	19	0	7	848	499 96
Stoke on Trent	25	14	2	9	614	566 72
Lutterworth	24	14	0	10	629	611 72
Hereford	26	13	1	12	557	568 65
Mossley Oak	24	11	1	12	489	568 57
Stourbridge Lions	26	10	1	15	543	741 56
Worcester	25	10	2	13	488	653 53
Sutton Coldfield	26	9	1	16	558	733 50
Rugby Lions	26	8	2	16	542	711 47
Melbourne	25	8	2	15	488	609 46
Camp Hill	26	6	0	20	466	802 37
Wolverhampton	24	3	2	19	392	870 26

Midlands 2 West (North)						
	P	W	D	L	F	A P
Whitchurch	21	21	0	0	713	234 99
Crewe & Nantwich	22	17	0	5	688	407 81
Leek	21	14	1	6	453	301 70
Spalding (Midlands)	22	10	0	7	434	352 66
Ludlow	22	12	1	9	518	415 63
Veseyans	22	11	1	10	421	441 58
Walsall	22	10	1	11	466	519 55
Tamworth	22	9	0	13	374	576 43
Kidderminster	22	6	0	16	414	591 34
Newcastle (Staffs)	22	6	0	16	302	493 33
Old Salterians	22	6	0	16	349	500 26
Clebury Mortimer	22	4	0	18	242	626 18

Midlands 3 West (North)						
	P	W	D	L	F	A P
Telford Hornets	22	18	0	4	485	188 88
Stafford	22	18	1	3	768	289 87
Burntwood	22	17	1	4	637	310 82
Shrewsbury	22	14	1	6	544	316 72
Harborne	22	13	0	7	454	302 66
Cantrick	22	11	1	10	450	480 57
Utteworth	22	8	0	14	572	536 46
Edwardians	21	10	0	11	382	498 48
Handsworth	22	8	0	14	610	659 40
Trenham	22	6	0	16	397	672 35
Willenhall	22	4	0	18	308	802 23
Barton-Under-Need	22	2	0	20	181	811 11

Midlands 4 West (North)						
	P	W	D	L	F	A P
Eccleshall	16	10	0	4	543	235 68
Wednesbury	16	12	0	4	391	173 58
Rugeley	16	9	0	7	287	303 45
Clee Hill	16	8	0	8	288	262 40
Market Drayton	16	7	0	9	246	321 34
Aston Old Edwardians	16	6	1	9	285	392 31
Yardley & District	16	5	0	11	256	289 21
Bloxwich	16	4	1	11	305	438 20
Essington	16	3	2	11	236	424 20

Midlands 5 West (North)						
	P	W	D	L	F	A P
Greyhound	14	12	0	2	440	245 58
Linley	14	10	1	3	442	209 53
Bishops Castle & Onny Valley	14	9	0	5	362	218 48
St Leonards	14	8	1	5	280	312 41
Chadestrey Corbett	14	7	0	7	242	355 38
Warley	14	4	0	10	229	446 18
Gnosall	14	3	0	11	214	459 18
Stourport	14	3	0	11	160	325 10

Welsh Premier League

	P	W	D	L	F	A P
The New Saints	31	23	4	4	80	29 73
Cannahs Gwyn Nomads	31	17	6	8	46	27 57
Bangor City	31	18	3	10	47	31 57
Bala Town FC	31	15	4	12	36	46 49
Cardiff Metropolitan University	31	12	6	13	43	38 42
Cefn Druids	31	11	8	12	36	41 41
Barry Town United FC	30	15	4	11	38	31 49
Newtown	31	12	4	15	49	40 40
Llandudno FC	31	9	8	14	39	44 35
Aberystwyth Town	31	9	7	15	42	34 34
Cardiff Metropolitan AFC	31	8	5	18	35	61 29
Prestatyn Town	30	4	5	21	27	67 17

Huws Gray Alliance

	P	W	D	L	F	A P
Caernarfon Town	27	19	7	1	96	29 64
Airbus Broughton	28	17	3	8	67	42 54
Denbigh Town	26	17	3	6	63	41 54
Guildford	27	14	8	5	52	38 49
Holywell Town	24	16	4	4	36	40 49
Rhyl	28	13	8	7	62	45 47
Portmadoc	24	12	3	9	62	43 39
Gresford Athletic	26	12	5	9	55	52 38
Ruthin Town	26	10	4	12	49	46 34
Fint Town United	25	9	4	12	43	38 31
Aberystwyth Town	25	7	9	9	38	46 30
Holyhead Hotspur	27	8	3	16	36	56 27
Caersws	24	3	3	18	31	64 12
FC Queens Park	24	1	3	20	20	94 6
Llandudno Junction	25	0	4	21	23	106 4

Spar Mid Wales League

Division 1						
	P	W	D	L	F	A P
Welshpool	29	17	8	4	96	42 58
Llanhaeadr	23	19	1	3	89	24 59
Llanidloes Town	25	15	4	6	52	36 49
Llanfair United	26	15	2	9	64	50 34
Bow Street	22	12	4	6	33	40 40
Aberaeron	25	11	5	9	53	46 38
Radnor Valley	24	11	4	9	57	47 37
Carno	24	10	6	8	63	41 36
Knights Town	24	11	3	10	57	46 36
Twyn Brynrcr	24	11	2	11	60	64 35
Barrow	25	7	9	9	38	46 30
Llandridloes Wells	25	9	6	13	37	49 27
Churchstoke	23	6	5	12	39	60 23
Kerry	23	7	2	14	43	73 23
Manchynellie	27	4	1	22	30	111 13
Borth Utd	25	2	1	22	21	102 7

Division 2						
	P	W	D	L	F	A P
Sikh Hunters	24	20	3	1	91	22 63
W'ron United	25	18	3	4	78	25 57
Gornal Colts	22	15	3	4	67	52 48
Warstone Wanderers	21	14	0	7	87	53 42
Rock Rovers	22	12	4	6	54	48 40
Bewdley Town Reserves	21	10	6	5	46	38 36
Church Stretton	21	9	2	10	46	43 29
AFC Brodmoor	22	8	5	9	46	48 29
Wendover Town	26	10	2	14	43	59 32
Ludlow	27	8	3	16	53	58 30
Old Wulfrunians	25	7	5	13	46	59 26
Oldbury United	22	6	6	10	33	61 24
AFC Broseley	21	6	1	14	31	64 18
Market Drayton Town Res.	23	4	6	11	34	60 24
FC Darlaston	23	5	3	15	37	66 18
AFC Bridgnorth Development	24	0	2	22	21	102 7

Division 3						
	P	W	D	L	F	A P
Welshpool	29	17	8	4	96	42 58
Llanhaeadr	23	19	1	3	89	24 59
Llanidloes Town	25	15	4	6	52	36 49
Llanfair United	26	15	2	9	64	50 34
Bow Street	22	12	4	6	33	40 40
Aberaeron	25	11	5	9	53	46 38
Radnor Valley	24	11	4	9	57	47 37
Carno	24	10	6	8	63	41 36
Knights Town	24	11	3	10	57	46 36
Twyn Brynrcr	24	11	2	11	60	64 35
Barrow	25	7	9	9	38	46 30
Llandridloes Wells	25	9	6	13	37	49 27
Churchstoke	23	6	5	12	39	60 23
Kerry	23	7	2	14	43	73 23
Manchynellie	27	4	1	22	30	111 13
Borth Utd	25	2	1	22	21	102 7

Division 4						
	P	W	D	L	F	A P
Welshpool	29	17	8	4	96	42 58
Llanhaeadr	23	19	1	3	89	24 59
Llanidloes Town	25	15	4	6	52	36 49
Llanfair United	26	15	2	9	64	50 34
Bow Street	22	12	4	6	33	40 40
Aberaeron	25	11	5	9	53	46 38
Radnor Valley	24	11	4	9	57	47 37
Carno	24	10	6	8	63	41 36
Knights Town	24	11	3	10	57	46 36
Twyn Brynrcr	24	11	2	11	60	64 35
Barrow	25	7	9	9	38	46 30
Llandridloes Wells	25	9	6	13	37	49 27
Churchstoke	23	6	5	12	39	60 23
Kerry	23	7	2	14	43	73 23
Manchynellie	27	4	1	22	30	111 13
Borth Utd	25	2	1	22	21	102 7

Division 5						
	P	W	D	L	F	A P
Welshpool	29	17	8	4	96	42 58
Llanhaeadr	23	19	1	3	89	24 59
Llanidloes Town	25	15	4	6	52	36 49
Llanfair United	26	15	2	9	64	50 34
Bow Street	22	12	4	6	33	40 40
Aberaeron	25	11	5	9	53	46 38
Radnor Valley	24	11	4	9	57	47 37
Carno	24	10	6	8	63	41 36
Knights Town	24	11	3	10	57	46 36
Twyn Brynrcr	24	11	2	11	60	64 35
Barrow	25	7	9	9	38	46 30
Llandridloes Wells	25	9	6	13	37	49 27
Churchstoke	23	6	5	12	39	60 23
Kerry	23	7	2	14	43	73 23
Manchynellie	27	4	1	22	30	111 13
Borth Utd	25	2	1	22	21	102 7

Division 6						
	P	W	D	L	F	A P
Welshpool	29	17	8	4	96	42 58
Llanhaeadr	23	19	1	3	89	24 59
Llanidloes Town	25	15	4	6	52	36 49
Llanfair United	26	15	2	9	64	50 34
Bow Street	22	12	4	6	33	40 40
Aberaeron	25	11	5	9	53	46 38
Radnor Valley	24	11	4	9	57	

Church A find leaders just too hot to handle

AFTER their opening night win, Church A suffered at the hands of defending champions Ceiriog Valley in the Oswestry and District Bowling League division one.

The Oswestry visitors were well beaten 9-1, losing the aggregate by 84 shots (165-81) during which they had five single figure defeats. Their consolation win came courtesy of Ron Crook who prevailed 21-18.

Llanymynech A gained their first win, but it was nip and tuck before they overcame Johnstown A 7-3 and by just nine shots (152-143).

Paul Smith and Mark Kirkham both claimed the best results of the night by winning to 13, while Roger Candlin was a 21-14 winner.

There was a first defeat for Whittington A who, after their 8-2 verdict against Flexsys A, were downed 7-3 (151-136) away to Llangollen A, with Andy Cawthray (21-9) the best performer for the visitors.

Closest game of the night in the first division saw Corwen A prevail 7-3 at Cynwyd A, with just six shots (138-132) separating the sides.

Flexsys A were also 7-3 winners, seeing off visiting Ruabon by 136-119 shots for their first victory of the campaign.

Crifftins A succumbed 7-3 (150-134) away to Chirk A. Sandra Barker (21-12) gaining the best result of the night for the Dudleston Heath visitors.

In division two, Llanrhaeadr A put themselves among the early leaders in third spot after their 7-3 success at Church B in which they took the aggregate 144-131.

Unbeaten after two games, with a draw and a win, Llan's victory was built on a solid 21-8 success by Emyr Roberts. Will Lewis, with a 21-0 whitewash, was the pick of the home bowlers.

After being well beaten by Weston Rhyn on the opening night, Ellesmere A roared back as they saw off visitors Crifftins C 8-2 (152-102).

Doug McCoy maintained his good early form with a 21-5 success for his team's best result of the night, while Ann Batha also won to five.

Weston Rhyn A slumped 8-2 (142-124) at Ye Olde Crofte whose Iain Butler (21-7) was the star performer, while Derek Taylor also won to seven in reply.

George slumped 9-1 (161-108) at Crifftins B in their first away match of the season, with Steve Kynaston (21-14) gaining a consolation.

Johnstown B were 7-3 (152-127) home winners against Llangynog A while Plas Kynaston A won by the same score at home to Johnstown D, taking the shots 141-127.

Ifton bowlers slip to bottom

IFTON slipped to the foot of the Salop Leisure Shropshire Premier Bowls League after suffering their second hefty defeat on the road when downed 12-2 at Hanwood.

Having succumbed 13-1 at Burway on the opening night, the St Martins side were again well beaten on their travels, losing the aggregate by 71 shots (229-158).

Defeat left them three points adrift of Meole Brace at the foot of the table, and they now host the Shrewsbury side on Friday night in an early basement showdown.

Ifton had been looking to build on a home win the previous week, but returned with little to show for their efforts, although Craig Griffiths was an impressive 21-5 winner and Nathan Lacey won to 14.

Sir John Bayley are three points clear at the top after their impressive 9-5 (216-198) win away to Bylet, with Newport second after their 10-4 (208-190) success at Chester Road.

Jack's the lad as Guils book final ticket

JACK Harris bagged a brace as Guilsfield booked their ticket for the final of the Central Wales Cup after overcoming Llanfair United 4-1 at Berriew.

Chris Cathrall and Callum Bromley also found the net, with Andrew Hughes responding for United.

In the final, the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance side will meet either Caersws or Builth Wells whose semi-final at Rhayader was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch. It will now be played next Tuesday (1 May) at the same venue.

The Guils got off to the best possible start against a youthful Llanfair side with Harris finding the net on just three minutes after Robbie James had headed down Jake Cook's corner.

Llanfair had their chances to reply, but keeper

Lee Andrew, pulled off a couple of important saves against his former club.

And the Spar Mid Wales League side were up against it once Guilsfield doubled their advantage on the half hour when Harris again found the net from Cook's low cross into the box.

As they had done in the first half, the Guils struck soon after the break with Cathrall picking up the ball in his own half before driving into the penalty box and rounding the keeper to slot home a fine solo effort.

Llanfair got on the scoreboard through Hughes, who latched onto some sloppy defending to find the net on 57 minutes

But the Guils had the last word as they sealed the

match through a Bromley header at the far post, again from a Cook delivery on 63 minutes.

n Guilsfield's chances of runners-up in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance were ended after being held 2-2 at home to one of they chief rivals Denbigh Town.

After a goalless first half, the villagers had twice led at Clos Myrton through Asa Hamilton's brace on 50 and 72 minutes, his first from the penalty spot.

But Denbigh hit back to earn parity courtesy of replies from Gareth Partridge (70) and Daniel Sullivan's free kick nine minutes from time.

With just one game remaining, the draw means Guilsfield now have no chance of catching Airbus UK Broughton and Denbigh who lie second and third respectively.

Double delight for COBRA Cup finalists

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

COBRA had double cheer as they pulled off a 32-9 win at Powys rivals Newtown to maintain their good run of end-of-season form in rugby's Welsh League division two (north).

As well as keeping alive their slim chances of promotion in the league, the bonus point victory also saw the Meifod men progress to the final of the Mid Wales Cup which takes place next month.

It was a good day all round, with COBRA now up to third in the table - and five points adrift of second place Shotton Steel who they visit in a possible promotion decider a week on Saturday. The Steelmen are still favourites to clinch runners-up spot with a game in hand.

The Llanfair side have two league games remaining after taking on Shotton, the first away to Rhyl before hosting champions Denbigh in their last outing.

It proved a tight affair at Newtown for the first hour, before COBRA surged clear in the last quarter with the sun on their backs to wrap up a bonus point as their pace and fitness came to the fore.

Newtown had led 9-6 early in the second half with three penalties, while the Llanfair side replied with a couple of kicks from Will Worthington.

But, after being met by some strong resistance from their hosts, the visitors started to carve more openings.

Fullback Richard Jones crossed for the first try wide on the left after a swift break worked an overlap, with Worthington adding the extras from wide out.

Scrum half Bryn Davies then dummied his way over to extend the advantage to 20-9 with Rhodri Jones adding the conversion.

Another break through midfield ended with prop Bryn Edwards picking up to score before, with the very last play of the game, COBRA gained a bonus point with a terrific move from deep with Iolo White and Ieuan Williams carving the opening for Jones to cross for his second try of the game.

The win meant that the Meifod club are also in the final of the Mid Wales Cup and will take on either Llanidloes or Aberystwyth Seconds.

Llanidloes brushed aside struggling Abergele 59-0 to further consolidate their top five placing in the Welsh League division two (north)

After back-to-back wins against Bangor, Lla-



Full-back Richard Jones crosses for his second try of the game to earn COBRA's bonus point against Newtown, with winger Dan Williams in the background. ■ Picture: Trevor Jones.

ni's latest win kept up the momentum, and was never in doubt against a side toiling at the foot of the table.

They ran in nine tries, four in the first half to seal a bonus point, with second row Gareth Anywl and flanker Harry Jarman both crossing the whitewash twice.

Fly half Adam Price converted seven of the tries, and was the only back to touch down.

Prop Rhys Owen, hooker Dave Reeve, second row Dave Pugh and No8 Paul Jehu also got in on the act.

With four league games remaining, Llanidloes are due to host another of the league strugglers, Llangollen, on Saturday.

Before then, they visit Aberystwyth University in the semi-final of the Mid Wales Cup on Wednesday evening.

WELSHPOOL, who had no game, return to duty in the Welsh League division two (north) with their last league outing at basement strugglers Abergele on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Maesydre club held a fundraising ladies day last Saturday with a host of local businesses showing their support.

During the afternoon, there was a mixed inter club Sevens tournament, with money raised from the event being shared with Hope House Children's Hospice.

Eagles feel the heat in home defeat

IT proved another tough day for Oswestry who slipped to a 24-5 defeat against Dukinfield in the South Lincs and Cheshire Two in a sun-drenched affair at Granville Park.

Since the turn of the year, the Eagles have won just twice in 10 outings, and were unable to improve on their 10th position in the table in their latest outing against a side three places above.

Before the game, Oswestry were greeted with the sad news that one of their honorary life members had passed away.

John Huins, one of the club's most famous members of yesteryear, was the club chairman from 1989 to 1992 and club president from 2000 to 2002.

A minute's silence was held by both teams before the kick-off as a mark of respect.

Dukinfield, with their big pack, looked to make early inroads, but were stunned when the home side

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

grabbed the first score in a fast and furious start.

After winning the line-out on the visitors 22, Fletcher Owen-Youens made ground before the ball was carried on by James Fisher who passed to James Roberts who sped over for an unconverted try in the corner. The Eagles were on the attack again with Gareth Ellis running back at the visitors and Jonathan Hughes making good ground with the ball before being tackled.

But Dukinfield struck back when a powerful drive from a line-out saw the hosts pushed back over their try line, with the ball touched down and conversion added for a 7-5 lead.

Undaunted, the home side went close to a reply when Luca Owen-Youens was held back within feet

of the try line following a strong run,

However, they fell further behind when the big Dukinsfield forwards again went on the charge to the 22, before crossing the line for a second time following a missed tackle, the conversion going wide.

A well-drilled Dukinfield continued to pile on the pressure but Oswestry defended stoutly to prevent any further scores to half time. The visitors from Greater Manchester kept to their game plan in the second period, with the forwards looking to make headway before adding a third touchdown, this time converted, following a quick penalty.

With the Eagles forced into changes, more pressure finally took its toll as Dukinfield bagged a fourth converted try to secure a bonus point.

Mid-table OSWESTRY II suffered a day to forget after crashing 107-12 at third placed Knutsford in the North West Howell and Co division four (south).

Shropshire Cricket Lge fixtures at weekend

Saturday
Premier division
St Georges v Madeley, Quatt v Cound, Newtown v Worfield, Sentinel v Frankton, Bomere Heath v Wem, Ludlow (no game).
Division one
Allscott Heath v Shelton, Pontesbury v Welshpool, Knockin and Kinnerley v Beacon, Condover v Alberbury, Market Drayton v Forton, Wroxeter and Uppington v Albrighton.
Division two
Wheaton Aston v Ellesmere, Shifnal 3 v Montgomery, HPTCC v Bishop's Castle, Wellington 3 v Ludlow 3, Lilleshall v Willey, Church Aston v Shrewsbury 3.
Division three
St Georges 3 v Harpers, Much Wenlock v Hinstock, Chelmarsh v Church Stretton, Prees v Iscody and Fenns Bank, Calverhall v Cae Glas, Overton on Dee v Acton Reynald.
Division four
Corvedale v Guilsfield, Quayside v Beacon 3, Harcourt v Bridgnorth 3, Oswestry 3 v Trysull and Seisdon, Column v Llanidloes, Coton Hall (no game).
Second teams
Division one
Frankton 2 v Sentinel 2, Alberbury 2 v Wellington 4, Worfield 2 v Knockin and Kinnerley 2, Montgomery 2 v Quatt 2, Shelton 2 v St Georges 2, Wem 2 v Wroxeter and Uppington.
Division two
Willey 2 v Bomere Heath 2, Ludlow 2 v Brosely, Beacon 2 v Newtown 2, Cound 2 v Shifnal 4, Madeley 2 v Allscott Heath 2, Acton Reynald 2 v Bomere Heath 2.
Division three
Ellesmere 2 v St Georges 4, Cae Glas 2 v Market Drayton 2, Iscody and Fenns Bank 2 v Condover 2, Welshpool 2 v Much Wenlock 2, Forton 2 v Lilleshall 4, Albrighton 2 v Pontesbury 2, Quatt 3 v Corvedale 2, Bishop's Castle 2 v Allscott Heath 3.
Sunday
Division one
Pontesbury 3 v Knockin and Kinnerley 3, Wem 3 v Worfield 3, Wellington 5 v Cound 3, Lilleshall 3 v Newport 3, Shrewsbury 4 v Frankton 3, Sentinel 3 (no game).
Division two
Bomere Heath 3 v Wellington 6, Bridgnorth 4 v Whitchurch 3, Madeley 3 v Madeley 4, Alberbury 3 v Oswestry 4, Knockin and Kinnerley 4 v Ludlow 4.

Ellesmere's cricketers off to flying start

ELLESMERE made a winning start to their Shropshire Cricket League division two campaign with a tense seven run victory over Shifnal III to claim a maximum 25 points.

In one of the few games to go ahead, the Meresiders were restricted to 111-5 after being put in to bat in an encounter reduced to 35 overs a side. Jack Cockayne made 21 not out and opener Laurence Ashley 20.

Runs continued to prove hard to come by in reply as Shifnal lost wickets at regular intervals in pursuit of their modest target.

Ed Hume threatened to give the visitors victory with 58 before being bowled by Ashley Thomas who finished with 2-19 off 11.2 overs, as well as making a run out.

Fellow opening bowler George Duncan claimed 3-17 off nine overs, while there were also a brace of victims for Fraser Duncan (2-25).

Although the sun shone, pitches were still sodden following the recent deluge which led to a string of first day call-offs.

Hot Crosses smash seven

FOUR Crosses maintained their quest for silverware after sweeping aside Llangedwyn 7-2 in the Boys & Boden Montgomeryshire League Cup.

Ollie Jackson and Sean Griffiths both scored twice in the third round tie, while Kyle Wilson, Paul Bache and Dylan Ellis (pen) were also on target.

Will Pritchard, meanwhile, got the only goal of the game as Waterloo Rovers edged out Trewern United 1-0 at Maesydre.

In division two, Christian Webster fired a hat-trick as Forden United thrashed Carno reserves 10-0, Josh Gethin bagging a brace.

U14s tennis side net fine win on road in Newport



Millie Parsons Hann and Ella Long netted a fine victory

IT proved an encouraging start for Oswestry's 14 and under girls tennis team who launched their Aegon tournament season with victory away to Boughey Gardens.

Although they have a squad of four girls, only two players are required for each match, so it was Millie Parsons Hann and Ella Long who represented the club for this opening fixture against their Newport hosts.

Ella played out an epic singles rubber against Amy Dean, coming back from having lost the first set 6-3 to win the second set 6-2 and take it to a third set tie-break where she was unfortunate to finally lose out.

Millie had a terrific victory in her singles rubber, winning it without conceding a game – 6-0, 6-0.

The match deciding rubber was the doubles where Ella and Millie proved too strong for their opponents in running out 6-1, 6-2 victors to ensure a winning start to the campaign for the team.

TNS Ladies see hopes go for a Burton

THE New Saints Ladies suffered another setback in the FA Women's Premier League Midlands One falter after being edged out 3-2 at Burton Albion Ladies.

Defeat kept the Saints third in the table - but are now level with Burton as hopes of finishing runners-up faded further.

"Burton exploited our weaknesses and we had no answer to that," said manager Andy Williams after the reverse at Etzwall.

"At the moment things are just not clicking no matter what we try. The girls continue to work hard, but there can be no denying teams have worked us out and we don't have a different set of answers."

Having defeated the same team 7-1 at home back in October, it was a disappointing return with the Saints going behind after just two minutes.

Kim Bebbington spurned a golden chance to level, and the home side made it 2-0 after 25 minutes with the visitors punished after losing possession.

The Saints steadily got a foothold in the game, with Bebbington reducing the arrears before Emily Ridge tapped in from a yard out to level matters at the break.

However, within three minutes of the second period Burton were back in front with their first attack after latching onto a long ball.

TNS' responses were restricted to efforts from distance or snap shots that were well blocked. Sarah Jackson went closest, with a shot past the far post, before Laura Morris hit the top of the crossbar late on with a cross-shot.

With three games left, TNS return home on Sunday as they bid to turn the tables on champions Loughborough Foxes at Park Hall (2pm).

Eight just great for on-song Saints

ST MARTINS maintained their promotion push in the West Midlands League division one by brushing aside Willenhall Town 8-0 in an often niggly affair at Park Hall.

The Saints always held the upper hand as they kept up the pressure on the leading pack, but the night was tarnished with forward Dave Hartshorn being sent off for foul and abusive language seven minutes from time.

Despite having their chances, it took until the half hour before the home side went ahead when Brendon Price squeezed the ball home after being played in by Shawn Melusi.

Two goals just before halt time saw the Saints

tighten their grip with Dave Easthope driving through from midfield on 43 minutes before feeding Melusi to dink the ball over the keeper.

From their very next attack, Harshorn pulled the ball back for Easthope to smash his shot into the net for a 3-0 interval lead.

Harrison Millington netted a fourth five minutes after the break following a Melusi assist, and the chances continued before four more goals came in an eventful last eight minutes.

Price notched his second of the night after unselfish work from Hartshorn who himself got on the scoresheet himself moments later.

The striker was then dismissed for comments to

the referee in an often fractious affair, but St Martins continued to press with Jordan Davies making it seven in the last minute of normal time.

Callum Graybrook had a goal ruled out for offside, the visitors then rattled the post, before Graybrook wrapped things up with No8 two minutes into injury time from a Price pull back.

The Saints looked to maintain their quest for promotion when they hosted high flying Wem Town at Park Hall on Tuesday night, before tackling Bromyard on Saturday.

They bring the curtain down on the campaign with visits to promotion rivals Newport Town (May 1) and Worcester Raiders (May 3).

New Saints rally for win over high-fliers

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

CHAMPIONS The New Saints overturned a half time deficit to sink Connaught's Quay Nomads 3-1 in the battle of the JD Welsh Premier's two leading sides at Park Hall.

The Saints had found themselves trailing to a 33rd minute strike from Michael Bakare following a below par first half showing

But they roared back in the second period to frustrate the Nomads' hopes of runners-up spot, with Greg Draper levelling with a 58th minute penalty.

Substitute Ryan Pryce then burst into the box from the left before curling his shot into the net on 67 minutes, before the league's top scorer Draper notched his second goal, and 22nd of the season to settle the issue.

Victory took TNS 16 points clear at the top with one game remaining when Cardiff Met University visit Park Hall on Friday night.

Boss Scott Ruscoe admitted the league leaders were off the pace in a disappointing first half as they often looked laboured against spirited opponents.

But they rescued the game in the second period after switching Simon Spender back to his more accustomed role of right back, while Pryce came on as left back.

"We were poor in the first half, and were miles below our usual standards," said Ruscoe.

"We tinkered with things at half time, and did really well from about 10 minutes into the second half. In the first half, it was one of those end-of-season games where everything looked a bit of chore.

"But the players are full time professionals and every single game they've got to take seriously, whether they have won the league or not. Fortunately, in the second half we stepped up to the plate, and it was a good win in the end."

Meanwhile, Newtown finished their home campaign in the Welsh Premier in style with a 3-0 home victory over already relegated Prestatyn Town in the Latham Park sunshine.

Despite nothing riding on the game, Robins boss Chris Hughes was keen for his side to finish strongly and, after a stalemate first half, they ran away with the game in the second period.

Ethan Jones struck twice to make it five goals in four starts, but was denied his hat-trick from the penalty spot.

Then Kieran Mills-Evans, voted fans player of the season on the day, powered home a late header to complete the win.

Adcote girls are county champs



Adcote School's under-11 hockey champions

ADCOTE School continues to punch above its weight as it celebrates a clutch of sporting championship title wins in quick succession.

The independent girls' school, at Little Ness, has bagged two back-to-back hockey titles hot on the heels of Midland success in gymnastics.

The school's under-11 hockey squad beat off rivals to win their first ever under-11s Shropshire Schools Hockey Championship held at Lilleshall National Sports Centre.

Victory qualified the team to represent Shropshire and compete in the Midlands Schools regional tournament at Cannock Hockey Club.

Days later, the school's under-13 squad netted a second hockey title after becoming North Shropshire hockey champions in a hotly contested tournament.

Many of the girls in the squad are double title winners as they are also already North Shropshire netball champions.

The hockey success comes only weeks after Adcote gymnasts

made a sweep of nearly all the top medals in team and individual events at the 15th Independent Schools Association National Gymnastics Championships held at the school.

Headteacher Diane Browne said it was a phenomenal achievement for a small school.

"We are a very small school in comparison to many others, but we are able to punch above our weight and produce some fantastic team and individual performances and very able young sportswomen," she said.

Four-star Matthews keeps Llan on the pace

A STUNNING four goal haul from Iwan Matthews kept Llanrhadrhyd firmly on course for the Spar Mid Wales League division one crown with a 5-1 victory away to Kerry.

With leaders Welshpool Town being held 1-1 by Bow Street, it means that Llan are just one point off the pace with no fewer than six games in hand.

Matthews took centre stage with four goals, his first from the penalty spot before hammering home three super strikes to make it seven goals in the last two games.

In a tight first half, Llan took the lead on the half hour with a penalty from Matthews after Marc Griffiths had been brought down, and five minutes after the break they stretched their advantage with a freak goal when a 50-yard free kick from Chris Aitken bounced over the keeper

Matthews then notched his second of the game on the hour with a sublime 30-yard free kick to put the hosts in full control, and the marksman completed his treble five minutes later with another terrific strike when volleying home from the edge of the box.

The battling Lambs reduced the arrears on 67 minute through Matt Mumford, but another superb strike from Matthews, who curled the ball home eight minutes later, made it 5-1 to the home side.

Leaders WELSHPOOL meanwhile, were held 1-1 at home to Bow Street, in their penultimate outing, Ricky Litchfield on target as the Maesydre side were left to rue failing to take their chances in an excellent first half display.

Llanidloes Town hold on to third spot after their 4-1 success at lowly Borth United, with Josh Hartrick netting a couple of penalties after making his return from an ankle injury. Drew Reynolds and Ash Owen also found the net for the Daffs.

After falling behind early on, LLANFAIR UNITED stormed back to secure an emphatic 6-1 win at struggling Machynlleth.

BERRIEW returned to winning ways with a 3-2 verdict against Aberaeron courtesy of goals from Jake Mann, Jack Weaver and Harry Watkins

Pool back on top after high fives victory

WELSHPOOL Town returned to the top of the Spar Mid Wales League division one table after securing a 5-2 victory at Churchstoke.

Ian Probert led the way with a hat-trick, with top scorers Will Pritchard and Adam Davies also adding to their growing tallies.

Kerry continued their improved form with a 4-3 home success over Berriew to push away from basement danger.

A calamitous 10 minutes at the start of the second half proved costly for the Rhewsidors whose Luke Vickers, Josh Morgan and Marc Jones found the net.

After the visitors had taken the lead, Keane Marks had the Lambs level at the break before James Price, Mark Hughes and Luke Mumford made it 4-1 early in the second period.

Despite Berriew fighting back, Kerry held firm to make it back-to-back wins and continue their upward momentum.

Carno's slump continued as they crashed 4-1 at Llandrindod Wells, with Joe Morris' reply outweighed by a brace from Kieran McCarley, and singles by Ash Jones and Ben Jones.

Lowly Machynlleth boosted their cause with a 3-1 home success against Aberaeron, while relegation haunted Borth United crashed 5-1 at home to Tywyn Brynrcrug.

Churchstoke sharp-shooters are champs

HOT SHOTS Churchstoke underlined their credentials by firing their way to the Montgomeryshire Airlun League crown with victory over close rivals Gwilsfield.

In the last of four encounters between the teams during the season (two league matches and two cup fixtures), tensions were high, as were the stakes in the top of the table encounter.

And it was Churchstoke who held their nerve to win the match 203.3 to 199.2, closing out the top slot in the league by maintaining their unbeaten record this season.

Jane Thomas opened the scoring with a fine 35.4, a score which was equalled by Paul Gwilliam as the hosts recorded two possibles, while Az Knight replied with a 35.3 of his own for GA.

In the league's penultimate action of the season,

SHOOTING by John Bridgwater

every team shot to the best of their abilities to maintain the excellent, high-quality shooting which has been the norm in the league this season.

Gwilsfield B shot their fixture against Forden, recording a very creditable score of 198.0 points, 3.1 points above their average so far this season. The visitors also scored above their own average, recording a final score of 186.5. Steady improvement is always encouraging, and both teams will be keen to enter the midfield next season.

A very close match between Crew Green A and Castle Caereinion saw the hosts just pip their visitors to the win, with GCA captain Edward Kelton scoring his third possible (score of 35.0 or over) in

three matches. The final scores were 199.2 to 198.5 – a narrow win for CGA that will surely secure their sixth place in the league table.

Though that match was close, it was not as close as the win that Crew Green B scored by the skin of their teeth over their friendly rivals Newtown.

CGB scored 197.7 against their hosts' 197.4 to win the match on the very last shot. Team supremo Don "Corleone" Corbett recorded the sole possible of the match, a 35.1.

Llanfair Caereinion shot well above their average (192.5 at this point in the season) to record a score of 197.5 against a six-shooter Arddleen team. Sadly for Llanfair it was not enough to beat the former league champions, with captain Richard Lewis and league president Martin Pearce scoring 35.6 and 35.5 respectively to seal the match for Arddleen.

Sport

Hockey
Adcote's girls are
county No1 – P39

Rugby
COBRA strike for
double joy – P38



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TNS target is to finish well clear of pack

THE New Saints will want to avoid any slip-ups when they wrap up another Welsh Premier title winning campaign at home to Cardiff Met University on Friday night (7.30).

As they prepare for a month's break ahead of their Champions League campaign in July, the league leaders will need to keep their minds on the job before turning their thoughts to holidays.

They were off the pace in the first half against Connah's Quay Nomads last week, before an improved second half showing secured a 3-1 success against their second placed visitors.

"It was one of those end-of-season games where you could see it looked bit of chore," said manager Scott Ruscoe.

"It can be difficult to keep your focus and motivation when there's not much riding on the game.

"We were below our usual standards, but credit to the lads who stepped up to the plate in the second half, and scored some good goals. It's always good to beat Connah's Quay.

"We now want to see the season out in style and finish with a good victory, and win the league by as many points as we can."

Cardiff Met make the trip to Park Hall have been boosted by last weekend's 4-3 home success against Bala Town - which was their first league win in the second phase of the season.

Ruscoe anticipates a tricky encounter against the students who have acquitted themselves well in previous meetings between the sides.

"They are a fit, young side and will relish coming here and trying to get one over us," added the TNS chief.

As well as being the league's top scorers, last week's win kept alive TNS' hopes of finishing the season with the least goals conceded after reducing the Nomads' advantage to just two.

Meanwhile, the Saints will celebrate another successful season when they hold their annual dinner and presentation night at the club on Saturday night.

Guils looking to sign of with win

GUILSFIELD face an end-of-season test when they bring the curtain down on their Huws Gray Cymru Alliance campaign with Saturday's trip to Holywell Town (2.30).

Hopes of finishing runners-up were ended following last weekend's 2-2 draw at home to rivals Denbigh Town.

"It looks like we're going to finish fifth, but it's been a decent season when you look at the quality of the clubs around us," said manager Nathan Leonard.

"We've progressed from last season, and can be pleased with what we have achieved, although you always look at the points you've dropped.

"It's still been a strong season considering we've got one of the smallest squads and budgets in the league."

OSWESTRY UP FOR CHALLENGE

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

NEW boys Oswestry are confident they can handle the challenges ahead when they launch their Birmingham League division one campaign with a trip to one of the title favourites Himley on Saturday (12noon)

Having gained promotion as second division champions, the Morda Road men get under way with a tough encounter in south Staffordshire against a side that finished third in the division last term. And it marks the start of an important season for the north Shropshire men who will be out to safeguard their place in the Birmingham League that will streamline its numbers to just 24 next year.

Should they be relegated from division one, Oswestry will face the prospect of a return to the Shropshire League - but chairman Chris Wiseman is confident about the side's chances as they prepare for the task ahead.

The team warmed up for the new season with a heartening 68-run win over third division Whitchurch last weekend which provided a good workout for both batsmen and bowlers.

"We're lucky in respect that the core of the side are all home grown players, they're young and want to challenge themselves," said Wiseman.

"They are proud to play for the club, there is a very good balance in the side, and we are quietly confident.

Encouraging

"You could see the difference between us and Whitchurch who play in division three, and considering we've still got three players to come in, it was an encouraging performance

"But Himley will be a big test as they will be one of the early season favourites."

Oswestry will start the season without opening bowler Rituraj Singh, an Indian A medium quickie, with the overseas recruit still awaiting his permit. Xavie Clarke is another to come in after missing the opening friendly, while Worcestershire's Joe Clarke will play when free from First Class commitments.

The season is starting a week late to allow grounds to dry out following the recent deluge, but Oswestry shook off any rustiness with a convincing 68-run win over third division Whitchurch in last Saturday's friendly.

That result will put them in good spirits for this weekend's opening day trip to Himley's Stourbridge Road ground in Staffordshire.

They then face a second away game the following week with a visit to Halesowen who have also been promoted to the first division this season.

Meanwhile, Oswestry's second string start with a home derby on Saturday against Whitchurch II in the 2nd XI Division two (north).

Rachel races to World second



Thumbs up from Llanrhaedr downhill rider Rachel Atherton in Croatia. ■ Pic: Sven Martin.

RACHEL Atherton marked her comeback by taking second place in the first race of this year's UCI Mountain Bike World series in Croatia.

The Llanrhaedr downhill rider is looking to show her credentials again after relinquishing her world crown last term following a collar bone injury.

Despite her efforts in the elite womens finals in Losinj, a fit-again Atherton had to settle for second spot in two minutes 44.26 seconds - some 3.55 seconds adrift of race winner Myriam Nicole. Londoner Tahnee Seagrave was third in 2.44.48.

"I was disappointed with my run. I struggled to find any flow or carry speed, but that's the comeback race done," said Atherton who is the most awarded British mountain-biker in the history of the sport.

As well as 10 UK national titles, the 30-year-old is five times downhill world champion, five times downhill world cup overall champion, twice European champion and the proud owner of 34 World Cups.

Meanwhile, Atherton's brother Gee finished in 19th spot in the elite men's finals 2.25.27, some 6.08 seconds adrift of race winner Aaron Gwin.

Llan braced for pivotal Pool clash

ON-SONG Llanrhaedr welcome Welshpool Town on Saturday in an encounter that could decide the outcome of the Spar Mid Wales League division one title.

After last weekend's 5-1 beating of Kerry, Llan are just one point behind leaders Pool with no fewer than six games in hand.

It's a big week for the villagers who faced a tricky trip to Knighton Town on Wednesday night, before hosting title rivals Pool who will be making their last league appearance of the season.

Should results go in their favour, Llanrhaedr could be crowned champions come Saturday night.

Llanfair United bid to maintain their late push for a top three place when they visit Aberaeron, while Berriew are away to Llandrindod Wells.

There is also a big top-of-the-table showdown in division two with leaders Llansantffraid Village heading to Builth Wells in a game that could decide who takes the title.

Although three points clear at the top, the villagers have played three more games than their rivals who have yet to taste defeat in 17 league outings.

Cricketers hoping for better weather

AFTER a string of first day cancellations, the Shropshire Cricket League season is set to get under way in earnest on Saturday.

Despite recent sunshine, unrelenting rain throughout April prevented many clubs from being able to prepare their pitches in time for last weekend's opening action.

Welshpool, Knockin & Kinnerley, Cae Glas Montgomery, Guilsfield & Llan-drinio and Frankton were among those sidelined.

Ellesmere were one of the few sides to beat the weather, notching a seven run win over Shfnal III in their second division clash.

After being kept on the sidelines last week, Welshpool are due to visit Pontesbury in division one on Saturday, while Knockin & Kinnerley host Beacon on the same day.

Rugby club mourns club stalwart Huins

OSWESTRY Rugby Club are mourning the death of one of their honorary life members, John Huins.

Mr Huins was one of the club's most famous members of yesteryear, holding the post of club chairman from 1989 to 1992, and club president from 2000 to 2002.

As a mark of respect, a minute's silence was held by both teams before Oswestry's match with Dukinfield at Granville Park last Saturday.



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